

## Village of South Barrington

Cook County, Illinois  
30 South Barrington Road  
South Barrington, IL 60010

### Village of South Barrington Conservancy Commission

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 4, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Bodkin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Roll Call:** In attendance:

- Commissioners present: Diane Bodkin, Corinne Chrystall, Michael Niedzinski
- Commissioners absent: Nancy Munao
- Guests: Dustin Wire

**Approval of Minutes:** October minutes approved.

**Announcements:** Bodkin reported that she had given a presentation December 2 at the Regency Homeowners' Association. Twelve homeowners signed up to be volunteers with Friends of the Conservancy. These persons' names will be added to the emailing list and the phone list to be activated by a commissioner for an event. Chrystal offered that the Ladies Bunco might be a source for volunteers for a planting event.

Bodkin displayed the two-page spread in the November *South Barrington Life* magazine with the article and many photos of the September Scarecrow Event. Bodkin and Munao wrote the article. Bodkin took the photos.

| Project and/or Program   | Follow-up Action Owner | Discussion   |
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| <b>Scout Program</b><br><b>John Jagmin</b><br><b>James Owen</b><br><b>New possible</b> |                        | <p>No report from Scout Jagmin at this time. The four post holes have been dug before the frost set in, so the next phase will be ready when the ground warms up</p> <p>No recent communication on the bluebird nesting boxes progress from James Owen.</p> <p>The building of the nesting boxes can be done indoors and the boxes can be placed outside early March before nesting season. Dustin Wire and Owen have agreed on the sites together.</p> <p>Bodkin reported she has sent an email to a potential scout interested in conservation projects, forwarded to us from Citizens for Conservation, who has no projects at this time. The hauling and laying of the mulch on the trails was stated as the project in need, which could be done in the winter.</p> |

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| <p><b>LL Bean</b></p>   | <p>Bodkin will talk with Jeanie Ziegler in the near future to get a clear idea of the Meetup concept and whether LL Bean staff will be doing a workday in the Conservancy.</p>  | <p>Bodkin commended Niedzinski and Munao for being present hosts to the LL Bean workday and in the absence of any attendees, went ahead and laid down several yards of mulch on the trail. Commissioners felt the Meet Up group was an excellent way for the Conservancy to publicize an upcoming workday.</p>   |
| <p><b>Maintenance<br/>Tree Update<br/>Winterizing<br/>pipes<br/>Arboretum Path<br/>Mulch Plan</b></p> | <p>Niedzinski will talk with John Kelly at Care of Trees to determine if chipped ash bore mulch will harm existing ashes and other trees in the Conservancy. He will also confirm the number of treatments Care of Trees did in 2014.</p> <p>Bodkin will notify the Village Administrator of the Commission’s concern to have the pipes winterized at the hose hook-up.</p> | <p>Commissioners voiced concern about the potential harm from the chipped ash trees and the possible bursting of the water pipes in the Conservancy used for watering the mound plants.</p> <p>Along the <b>Arboretum Path</b>, Bodkin and Chrystall have removed most of the teasel and thistle, with only one sumac area near the Arboretum entrance to clear of teasel. Bodkin and Chrystall also plan to rake clean the 5-6 sumac areas to give a clean open appearance with added mulch for weed control. Bodkin will spray the individual teasel florettes with Round up.</p> <p>The total number of mulch piles in the parking lot is now about 19! Four of these were approved by the Mayor and Matt D’Amico, the chipper. The rest of the piles were dumped illegally by independent contractors. A “NO DUMPING’ sign will need to be placed on the piles. The plan is to haul the mulch to all the trails, the Butterfly Garden trail, the Wildflower Garden, the Scarecrow Trail, the sumacs, and other areas. After all the areas in the Conservancy are taken care of, the mounds will be open to South Barrington residents to take what they would like for their yards. Then the remainder will have to be cleared by the village, in the interest of making the Conservancy aesthetically pleasing and functional.</p> <p>Chrystall suggested having her landscapers haul the mulch to various sites along the trails to make it easier for volunteers to spread the mulch.</p> |
| <p><b>2015 Budget<br/>2014 Expenses</b></p>   | <p>Bodkin will talk with the Village Treasurer Michelle Bodie to determine the remaining funds in the account after the expenses reported from Chrystall and Wire and notify the commissioners. Chrystall still needs to submit her mound expense report . Chrystall And Niedzinski to get estimates for crews to disperse the mulch.</p>                                   | <p>Bodkin stated the commission will need to put an amount in the 2015 budget for mulch spreading.</p> <p>Wire submitted his expense report for reimbursement of \$1500 for three herbicide applications to the reed canary, teasel, willow, cattails and phragmites.</p> <p>The commissioners would like to use remaining funds for hauling some of the mulch onto the paths. Niedzinski and Chrystall will search for estimates for crews to disperse the mulch. Bodkin mentioned she will also check into the use of the S.W.A. P. teams to help with the mulch transfer. Wire confirmed that 3-4” of mulch should control the weeds underneath without having to spray the weeds first. Commissioners discussed the issue of the uneven Scarecrow trail. It was suggested to cut the trail higher up away from the woodlands.</p>  |

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| <p><b>Mound Plans</b></p>                          | <p>Chrystall and Bodkin to look over the erosion area and the rock pile for availability.</p> | <p>Chrystall discussed the current erosion problem on the far side of the mound. She would like to see the many rocks and stones used as accents on the inclines.<br/>Chrystall announced her plans for the mound future include adding more grasses, more shrubs, using the existing rocks to the best advantage, and getting more input and plant donations from the residents.</p>  |
| <p><b>Buckthorn and Willow cutting</b></p>         |   | <p>Wire states it would be beneficial to wildlife to leave the cut willow and cut buckthorn stalks where they are cut. Bodkin stated she would like the piles to be out of view from the paths. Wire also suggested that the main wide trails be cut 2' feet further on each side to allow for the tall Indian grass that falls into the path. Bodkin will talk with DiMonte in spring about mowing wider path.</p>  |
| <p><b>Evaluations and Suggestions for 2015</b></p> |   | <p>Niedzinski and Chrystall suggested hosting a big event like the 2010 Grand Opening again in the Conservancy to help residents be more aware of this feature in their village. Bodkin also agreed and stated the commission must start now planning and preparing for all the good features to promote. The event is planned for summer 2016. Commissioners will start getting features ready – the observation platform, the bluebird houses, the fully planted mound, the mulch on the Wildflower Garden trail, on the Butterfly Garden trail, the Scarecrow trail, more flowers in the gardens, a revised brochure, a new, inviting map. An artisan's fair may be the focal point.</p> <p>Niedzinski asked for a large feeder for the birds this winter. Bodkin agreed to build the 3' x 3' reinforced frame, Chrystall will add the screen and a large log as a platform. Donations of seed was not discussed.</p> |

**Motion to adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Next meeting January 15, 2015, at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall.