

Village of South Barrington

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

Village of South Barrington Conservancy Commission

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 16, 2015, 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, Nancy Munao, Corinne Chrystall
- Commissioners absent: Michael Niedzinski
- Guest present: Dustin Wire

Approval of Minutes: Approval tabled to May meeting.

Announcements: Bodkin announced the upcoming KidFest on May 2. Munao and Chrystall agreed to help with the note card creations. Bodkin will ask Niedzinski to help with setting up tables and tent.

Bodkin announced the article in the May *South Barrington Life* magazine will be on Ron DiMonte hauling wood chips in the front loader on the Scarecrow Trail and the Butterfly Trails. Commissioners suggested the article for the June magazine could be the planting of new plants on the mound by the Garden Clubbers. The deadline for the June pub is May 7.

Bodkin reported the Park District is publicizing partnering with the Conservancy for a free guided walk on the trails in June 16 at 11 AM. Bodkin can lead; Munao and Chrystall may be able to attend. Niedzinski will be asked to join. Commissioners were enthusiastic to mention the new improvements since the last walk: the mound with flowers, the wood chips on the trails, the bluebird houses, the new observation platform.

Project and/or Program	Follow-up Action Owner	Discussion
Eagle Scout Program John Jagmin	Munao to continue following Jagmin's progress	Munao reported on the observation platform progress. Scout Jagmin has his building permit, has bolted stud holders into the concrete posts. He will be cutting the boards to length at home and bringing to the construction site.
Bluebird Nesting Box Monitoring	Bodkin to continue one time a week observation of the nesting boxes	Bodkin reported of the ten nesting boxes; five have tree swallow nests in various stages of completion, five boxes are empty but have swallows guarding them. There are no bluebirds in or on the boxes. Swallows are migratory and protected by law, so will stay in their houses.

<p>Maintenance</p>	<p>Bodkin will talk with Village Buildings and Grounds Officer about the dog station and trash cans</p>	<p>Commissioners discussed picking up the trash that is left around the Conservancy grounds: candy wrappers, plastic bottles, and construction material. Commissioners have picked up several large black plastic bags full of trash. Suggestions for improvement were: assigning a commissioner to walk once a week, partnering with Regency to help clean the areas, placing a trash can on the paths, partnering with the Park District for help. Doggie bag stations were also discussed. Commissioners agreed to allow dog walks to encourage residents’ use of the Conservancy.</p>
<p>Wood Chip Spreading</p>	<p>Bodkin created a schedule for volunteer workdays this week, with plans to rake the trails, rake the sumac area, and rake a clear path in the center of the Butterfly Garden for the new plants, and weed the mound.</p>	<p>Bodkin reported that Ron Dimonte hauled all the 20 piles of wood chips into the Scarecrow Trail to make it 6 feet wide . He hauled chips into piles on the Butterfly trails to be raked into place by volunteers. Munao, and Bodkin and Jim Bodkin raked the piles to a 4 -inch trail in the Butterfly Garden.</p> <p>Commissioners indicated an interest in talking with other tree companies about having more chips dumped on the curb indent by the Regency Gate. These chips could be used for the Arboretum path as well as other trails. Other chips could be dumped in the parking lot again for the Wildflower trail and others. Munao offered some of her trees that will be chipped up soon to be used on the trails.</p> <p>Bodkin reported she would be talking with the Regency Landscape Committee Friday about partnering to monitor the Arboretum path and help clean up the Sumac areas.</p>
<p>Mound Progress</p>	<p>Chrystall to buy native plants from Sunrise wholesaler for plants for the mound. Bodkin to purchase Little BlueStem plugs from Dustin Wire to be used for mound and Butterfly Garden. Bodkin to check with Village Treasurer and retrieve the original copies of receipts from the check request reimbursement from last year. Chrystall wants to request replacements for some of the shrubs and plants that did not make it through the winter.</p>	<p>Chrystall plans to add more Forsythia. She conferenced with Wire about best plants and wildflowers and grasses for Butterflies.</p> <p>April 30 has been designated as the workday for digging up Indian grass and making open space for Little Blue Stem. Some Little Blue will be also added to the mound to control erosion and serve as backdrop for some of the flowers.</p>
<p>Volunteer Projects</p>	<p>Chrystall will research printed signs to erect on workdays.</p>	<p>Chrystall suggested having a sign placed on workdays telling the public that volunteers are at work: “Volunteers at Work –Beautifying the Community.”</p>

Budget for Programs Discussion Topic Carried Over from Last Month	Chrystall to copy the old brochure and send to commissioners to mark up with ideas.	Commissioners discussed revising the brochure and the tree walk brochure. Munao stated Barrington High Art class did the previous brochure free and has agreed to do it again. All agreed the brochures need to be updated and redesigned. Commissioners were asked to think of changes in terms of text and photos. Niedzinski was asked to determine a method for measuring the perimeter of the Conservancy boundaries, to be used as a base for the map.
Friends of the Conservancy Newsletter	Munao offered to help with lay out of the newsletter and brochure.	Bodkin stated she has created a "Friends of the Conservancy" email list. Commissioners asked Bodkin to give information to Jan Dahm for the next village newsletter Summer 2015 telling of the sumac clean up , the chips on the trails, and the new wildflowers. Use photos of people using the Conservancy to take wedding photos, kids playing in the picnic area, reading at the tables.
Workdays	Bodkin will plan to hold regular workdays on Friday mornings 9-11. There is need to publicize at least two weeks in advance.	Commissioners discussed best days for workdays. Agreed to try weekdays early in morning to catch retirees and persons not working, and to work before the heat of the day. Bodkin will test the days to see how many volunteers respond.
Dustin Wire's Report	Wire to complete first treatment of spraying and send invoice to Bodkin before the end of the April to be included in 2014 budget.	Wire reported he would be spraying the teasel rosettes and the Reed Canary Grass Friday and Saturday, April 17-18. The Reed Canary field and the area across the stream from the field. Wire offered to help spray some of the teasel in the area by the Regency gate. Bodkin will let the Regency Landscape Committee know of the Conservancy's partnering actions.
Other: WaterMain Break	Bodkin to bring water concern to attention of Village Building and Grounds Officer Mike Moreland	Commissioners voiced concern over the standing water around the water source near the mound. Commissioners also voiced a need to know the exact boundaries of the Conservancy land, to know whose land is being cleaned up and how far the Conservancy clean up efforts need to extend.

Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next meeting May 14, 2015, at 7 p.m. at the Village Rose Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson