

Village of South Barrington

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

Village of South Barrington Conservancy Commission

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 23, 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, Michael Niedzinski

Approval of Minutes: June minutes were approved.

Announcements:

Bodkin announced she received word that the water hydrant had been repaired, but she had not been able to test it out. Chrystall has the key.

Bodkin reported she observed the Sandhill Crane sitting on the nest a month ago. She did not see any young at that time. When she checked on July 6, there was no parent or young on the pond.

Commissioners agreed to move the August meeting to August 27, due to the chairperson's absence. All Commissioners stated they would be able to attend the new date. Bodkin will notify Linda Hooker, Village Secretary. Commissioners will meet in Village Hall that night, as Regency Turnover will be in Rose Hall.

Niedzinski reported taking the new large Conservancy poster and sandwich board to the Coves picnic in July. He stated the poster needs a commissioner to attend and answer questions and promote the Conservancy. The poster was also displayed at the Park District July 4 picnic. Commissioners also thought it would be good to take to the South Barrington Lakes gathering the following night. Bodkin will contact Mayor McCombie for permission and where and when to deliver.

Project and/or Program	Follow-up Action Owner	Discussion
Scout Jagmin Progress	Munao to email Jagmin to put boards out of view to protect them. Bodkin asked Munao to contact Mike Moreland, Village Building Inspector, to procure a copy of the plans and diagram of the intended	Munao reported no recent communication with Jagmin. Bodkin showed photo of the current state of the platform with new boards stacked on the deck. Munao was concerned about vandalism with such great boards. Commissioners noted that no one has seen the plans, but the Scout had to show them to his adviser before he started the project. It is possible that Moreland signed off the project but did not share copy with the Commissioners.

	<p>observation platform. It is important that the plans allow for a future ramp on the right side of the front of the platform.</p>	
Tree Status	<p>Niedzinski stated he will scan the tree area this week. He will add some fertilizer to the Elm tree on the mound to see if that will rejuvenate it from the beetle feeding. Niedzinski also stated he will cut down the large fallen branch of the Linden close to the picnic table near the pond.</p>	<p>Bodkin reported loss of the Chinquapin Oak and a Pagoda tree. The Lindens are doing well even with a few signs of beetle chewing but not enough to weaken tree or change the tone of the leaves. However, the elm tree on the mound was pale color three weeks ago. Now it shows signs of severe feeding of the beetles. Niedzinski suggested a product called Milky Spore to help kill the beetle larvae that return to the ground.</p>
Mound Status	<p>Bodkin to email photos of the Cream Baptisia to Chrystall. Bodkin and Chrystall will surgically spray the thistle with Roundup this coming week to weaken the weed and the underground network.</p> <p>The date for the planting will be August 27. Bodkin will email Nancy Ebner, Garden Club President, to ask about support from the club members. It is planned to start about 8 AM to get ahead of the heat.</p>	<p>Chrystall reported buying several plants at Home Depot, confetti plants, and come Cardinal Lobelia. She would also like some Russian Sage for the delicate blue tone. Bodkin added she would like to see several Cream Wild Indigo shrubs, Baptisia leucophagaea, up on the top of the mound. Commissioners reported seeing at least three Monarchs flying over the wildflowers on the mound and the trails. Chrystall asked for a date for the Garden club members to help with the planting. She will have her landscapers dig holes in the mound where she would like the specific plants to go. The plant pot will be set next to the hole and the club members will be asked to take plant out of the pot, place in hole and pack dirt and mulch around it. Watering will be done en masse after all plants have been planted. Chrystall estimates a little over an hour for about 35 plants. Bodkin offered to have a watermelon party after the work is done.</p>
Wildflower Trail	<p>Bodkin may need to present the need for more funding to the Public Works Committee for about \$500 to introduce many plugs of sedge to help eradicate the Reed Canary grass</p>	<p>Bodkin reported the gravel filled depressions in the trail are excellent, making the walk a very safe one. Wood chips will still need to be laid on the trail, after the weeds are sprayed with weed killer. Commissioners voiced dismay at all the weeds that broke through the 4 inches of wood chips on the Butterfly and Scarecrow Trail. Bodkin reported that she walked the whole Conservancy area in two hours this morning. She saw no teasel stalks peaking up on any of the trails or gardens. The front Reed Canary Grass field has no more visible Reed Canary, so now is the optimum time to plant some of the sedges to push</p>

		<p>out the opportunistic Reed Canary seeds. Unfortunately, the field across the ridge from the treated field is still full of Reed Canary Grass and will need to be treated also, if the goal is to eradicate all the Reed Canary in every area and not contaminate the treated areas.</p>
<p>Date for Scarecrow Trail October 17-18</p>	<p>Bodkin to contact Nancy Plenge about helping with the Event this year.</p>	<p>Commissioners agreed on the date for the event to be Oct 17-18. It was determined that July was too early to start soliciting for entries. Commissioners will discuss in earnest at next meeting and assign certain previous entrants to invite again. Bodkin reported there were 19 wood chip cut outs along the trail for the scarecrows. There is a trail to the right at the entrance that could take about 9 more scarecrows if the space is needed.</p> <p>Bodkin Reported Nancy Plenge had called a day ago asking about the date for the Scarecrow event and offering to help.</p> <p>Commissioners discussed how the big Scarecrow Event benefits the Conservancy. Income and more volunteers would be hoped for goals. It was agreed that because the Conservancy is a Village sponsored entity, it would not be acceptable to charge the residents for attendance. If more funds are needed, the best method would be to increase the budget next year. The other goal for the Scarecrow event, besides increasing awareness for using the Conservancy, would be to gain more volunteers. Bodkin noted the last Scarecrow event gained about ten new, interested residents with emails addresses. She stated she plans to create a newsletter for the Friends soon to unite all the Friends of the Conservancy.</p>
<p>Create New Brochures</p>	<p>Munao will review and rewrite the "History of the Conservancy", Niedzinski will review and rewrite if necessary the "Conservancy Commission Members". Bodkin will create the "Friends of the Conservancy", add photos, and oversee the first draft of the new brochure to be reviewed at the August meeting.</p>	<p>Time was taken to reassign areas of the brochure for improvement. It was agreed to keep the "Mission Statement", the "Property Location and Description", "How the Conservancy was Made Possible," and "Interconnections" as is, to leave out most of the "Cultural Center", and combine the activities with some of those listed in "Phase I."</p>
<p>Design New Banner</p>	<p>Bodkin will design the two banners and present to the commissioners for approval, before the July 31 deadline.</p>	<p>Bodkin introduced the idea of hanging a commercially printed banner on the lampposts on Bridges Drive in the Conservancy. She has purchased some coupons for two banners that will expire July 31. Commissioners liked the idea and offered suggestions for the photos and text. Suggestions were "Make the Conservancy YOUR DESTINATION" and "Discover, Experience Nature" with photos of birds in pond, and butterfly on flower.</p>

Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Next meeting August 27, 2015, at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall
Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson