

## **Village of South Barrington**

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

### **Village of South Barrington Conservancy Commission**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2016, 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
- Guest: Natalie Karney, South Barrington Village Engineer

Natalie Karney, Village Engineer, was invited to educate the commissioners with information about Barrington Area Council of Governments' (BACOG) new well monitoring project that will be installed on Conservancy grounds near the west end of the parking lot possibly next week. The well will be about 230' deep, with a mechanism, from Deer Park Village, to measure the water level. It is expected to stay in place till 2018-2019. Commissioners agreed it would be good to landscape with several shrubs around the well to hide from opportunists.

Karney was asked about the situation with the hydrant for watering the mound. She responded that the company monitoring this hydrant advised the users to turn the valve only partially to the open direction. Commissioners commented that this might be a temporary fix.

Karney was also asked about the village's plan for repairing the large gash in the trail from the culvert collapse at the west end of the Conservancy. Karney reported that estimates for the repair and replacement exceeded \$20,000. Commissioners voiced concern over hikers' safety along the path and agreed the village should place stronger boards to span the crevasse while they are working on a solution. The commissioners unanimously agreed that the integrity and continuity of the hiking path should be preserved for residents' safe use.

Commissioners asked for information on the village's insurance coverage for persons injured on the Conservancy grounds. Bodkin will talk with the Village Treasurer and the Village Administrator.

**Approval of Minutes:** November minutes were approved with correction of "Graphic Arts Department."

**Announcements:** Bodkin, Chrystall, and Niedzinski stated they would not be in town for the Feb 18 meeting. All agreed to reschedule the meeting to Monday, February 8, at 7:00 p.m. Bodkin will notify the Village Secretary of the change.

Bodkin read parts of a Chicago Tribune article regarding planting sedges and flag iris plugs as a restoration strategy to force out Reed Canary Grass, the same strategy being planned for the Conservancy invasive grass field.

Bodkin reported having attended a seminar that morning at Northern Illinois University in Naperville, sponsored by DuPage Conservation, entitled "Making Conservation Meaningful Where You Live." She reported meeting contacts for restoration assistance, as well as ideas for conservation projects and recruiting volunteers.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to review and approval of the 2016-2017 budget. Dustin Wire was unable to attend but made his requests and recommendations known to Bodkin by phone prior to the meeting. The total amount requested in 2016-2017 budget is \$19,900.

(Attached is the copy of the budget that was sent to the Village Treasurer 1-25-16.

### **Maintenance:**

Chrystall made a request to have Ron DiMonte mow a wider swath into the Conservancy border in the frontage area along Bridges Drive. Bodkin will talk with him about this concern.

The timing for the burn will be left to Dustin Wire to judge when the conditions are optimum.

Niedzinski agreed to manage the replacement of the dead tree and planting and monitoring of the replacement. The total funds requested for Maintenance issues is \$11,800.

### **Capital Projects**

Chrystall reported she needed expenses for stone for the mound erosion instead of mulch. All commissioners agreed on the added expense of \$800 for more specific interpretive signage along the prairie trails. QR codes on signs are also being planned, similar to the state-of-the-art signs on the Flint Creek Savanna prairie in Lake Barrington. It was agreed that when the large overall Trail and Conservancy sign is designed, it will include the many donor groups and organizations that have contributed to making the Conservancy an attractive destination.

Bodkin explained the Boxwood Maze to be a new project for small children using the 6-7 rows of boxwoods left by Klehm Nursery over near the Wildflower Garden. Workdays would need to be scheduled to chop the buckthorn between the rows, erect a fence on the backline, and surface the grass area with recycled wood chips. The total amount requested for Capital Projects is \$5200.

### **Committee Projects**

On advice from the commissioners and President McCombie, Bodkin sent a letter of declination to Susan Lenz, Director of the annual KidFest, stating the South Barrington Conservancy will not be participating in the KidFest event . It is hoped the note card craft can be incorporated into activities for kids during the Scarecrow Event.

Munao will be working with the high school Graphic Arts Dept. for the brochure. The text may need to be decreased with more photos added to make the brochure more inviting. A definitive trail map seems to be the main hold up for the project.

### **Scarecrow Trail Walk**

Commissioners selected October 1-9, 2016 for the Scarecrow Event.

Bodkin reported that President McCombie has indicated an interest in expanding the Scarecrow Event to span two weekends. Tarps could be issued to protect exhibits from rain during that time frame.

Soliciting organizations, businesses, and homeowners associations will begin in early August.

Munao and Chrystall will explore possibilities of a lunch or food truck or food vendor and the requirements for having them on site. President McCombie will explore resources for prizes.

She also stated the village would be able to send out a well designed post card to all the residents telling them of the event attractions. Funds requested for Committee Projects and the Scarecrow Event totaled \$2900.

**Motion to adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next commission meeting will be Monday night, February 8, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson