

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CONSERVANCY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Bodkin at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES. Motion by Commissioner Munao, seconded by Chrystall.
Unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None voiced.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Bodkin read a letter from Marianne Jagmin, mother of the Eagle Scout John Jagmin, asking the Commission to write a letter of congratulations by June 1 to be included in her son's award scrapbook. Munao agreed to help write the letter. Several photos of the observation deck will be included. Bodkin will find out about the location of the award ceremony and send information to the Commissioners.
- b. Bodkin reported that the Village has replaced the large culvert on the Conservancy trail and done a beautiful job of landscaping. Commissioners asked to let know the Village Administrator Bob Palmer know this effort is appreciated.
- c. Chrystall reported that Goebbert's has a seminar on Pollinators May 21. She is attending.
- d. Bodkin announced the Photography Class May 28, for kids 9:00-11:00 and adults 1:00-3:00 p.m. Diane and Jim Bodkin will be the instructors. The classes are free to South Barrington residents. There will be a guided hike in between the two classes.
- e. Bodkin reported a call from the Village Administrator concerning a request for spraying on the Arboretum trail. She checked the trail and reported that it is infested with teasel florets and recommended that the area be heavily sprayed. She will walk the area with Ron DiMonte and discuss how to eradicate.

2. BLUEBIRD MONITORING:

Bodkin reported that 5 of the 6 nesting boxes north of Bridges Drive all have nests, all tree swallows. Regency resident Fran Frain is monitoring the 4 boxes south of Bridges plus 4 that he built himself. He has reported seeing bluebirds flying around the Reed Canary Grass field.

3. MOUND PLANS:

Chrystall reported purchasing several plants to put on the picnic table side of the mound. She would like to use some of these plants for education, telling how plants were used in prairie days. She will also wait till fall for some of the sales for more shrubs and larger plants.

Bodkin stated she would tell the South Barrington Garden Club Donation Committee to send the \$1000 donation to the Village now, so it will be included in the 2016-2017 budget to be used for flowers on the mound, and in the Wildflower Garden if needed.

Chrystall reported that she will have landscapers contribute time to place stones on the front of the mound in a curving stream effect to help with erosion and add aesthetics.

Bodkin will help Chrystall with the weeding, a priority in the next few weeks.

4. WILDFLOWER GARDEN TRAIL WORK:

Bodkin urged commissioners to find time to help haul the wood chips from the parking lot to the Wildflower Garden Trail in the coming weeks before the trail weeds start coming up. Dustin stated he would also do some hauling in the next week. Commissioners agreed to help on their own schedule when each has time. Niedzinski stated he has access to a wheelbarrow and Bodkin has a large garden cart. April 30 was set as a possible date for hauling chips. Niedzinski will help later with determining areas for raised wildflower gardens.

5. PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS:

Bodkin reported she sent in a notice for "Mark Your Calendar" to the *South Barrington Life* magazine for the May issue, to publicize the free photography class May 28 in the Conservancy. Chrystall said she would be available for the walk in between the two classes. She will help with a tent and water and refreshments for increased interest in the walk.

6. BOXWOOD MAZE:

Bodkin stated this maze will be the next project priority after the mound and wildflower trail. She reported there are many buckthorn saplings in between the boxwood rows that need to be cut close to the ground. She stated the project would probably need to use some heavy equipment to get the job completed. Chrystall suggested using willow branches to weave in between stakes in order to create a natural fence to define the back of the boxwood area. Commissioners agreed this area might be considered as a future Eagle Scout project.

7. TRASH PICKUP AND WALK AROUND: Bodkin urged the commissioners to help with a regular trash pickup schedule. She and Chrystall have been doing much of the clean up. Commissioners agreed to each take a week to walk the Conservancy road and trails and pick up whatever trash is there. Bodkin will create a schedule and send a reminder to each of the commissioners when it's their time. Some commissioners reported the current emergence of tick season and asked whether there was any protection for volunteers. Dustin stated a solution called Prometherin could possibly put on pants to discourage ticks. He will get more information about it.

8. TRAIL MAINTENANCE:

Bodkin stated that L.L. Bean's Meet-up site could be very helpful to publicize a trail maintenance workday at the Conservancy. Commissioners would need to determine a good size project for several helpers. Suggestions were to clear the area on the banks by the creek, or clearing out the willows and buckthorn near the Cottonwoods.

9. IDEAS FOR SCARECROW TRAIL WALK:

The Scarecrow Event is scheduled for October 1-8, 2016. Mayor McCombie voiced interest in having the event span two weekends and the week in between and in having the event include more activities and larger prizes. Chrystall and Munao will check on the cost of food trucks, possibly getting some contracts to compare. This new feature will need to be discussed with Mayor McCombie, possibly getting some help from local businesses as was done with the Grand Opening in 2010. Bodkin added she would like to have a Giant Bubbler in the picnic grounds for the kids. She and Munao would like to include the pressed leaves note cards as an activity for kids. Commissioners were asked to think of other activities to add to the event.

OLD BUSINESS

Niedzinski walked the tree area today and stated he feels it is too soon to be able to check the tree status. He asked about the process for replacing trees when needed. Bodkin agreed the best way would be for Niedzinski to determine the trees that need replacement, determine a good replacement and check on prices, then talk directly with the Village Administrator, Bob Palmer, or the Village Engineer, Natalie Karney. Dustin and commissioners suggested oaks, sycamore, and paper birch, and any of the other trees that are already in the Conservancy arboretum and doing well.

NEW BUSINESS

Dustin Wire agreed to purchase \$500 worth of sedge plugs for planting in the reed canary field. This amount was placed in the budget for this coming year. Early June was set for the time for this project. Bodkin will contact LL Bean and the Cub Scouts and others to help with these 400 plugs. Chrystall reported discovering a new wet area in the southern portion of the Conservancy. She would like to see a large planting of swamp milkweed there to make full use of that beneficial area. She and Bodkin will walk the area and determine its best use.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next meeting will be May 19, 2016. Niedzinski will not be able to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson