

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CONSERVANCY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, May 19, 2016
7:00 P.M.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES: Motion by Commissioner Munao, seconded by Niedzinski.
Unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None voiced.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Bodkin announced she would not be available to preside at the July 21 commission meeting. Munao agreed to preside. Bodkin will prepare the agenda, minutes, and other documents ahead of time.
- b. Bodkin and Munao reported that Eagle Scout John Jagmin's Court of Honor was an inspiring ceremony. They voiced pride in the opportunity to work with this scout.
- c. Bodkin reported three volunteers other than Commissioners Munao, Chrystall, and Bodkin attended the workday for trail maintenance June 11, one member of the garden club, one resident at Regency, and the high school student working for volunteer hours through the summer. Munao suggested having the next workday on a weekday to catch more of the children volunteers.
- d. Bodkin reported the photo class went well, three adults and three children and good plants and scenes on the Conservancy grounds for subjects. Bodkin wrote an article on the class for the July *South Barrington Life* magazine.

2. WILDFLOWER/POLLINATOR GARDEN PLAN

Bodkin reported that her husband mowed the grass and goldenrod twice so that the large cardboard pieces could be laid down to smother the grass for flower beds. She explained this method is to be used to avoid having to use wide spread herbicide to kill the weeds that may be harmful to the insects and birds that the pollinator flowers will be attracting. For now, weeds that have grown through the wood chips will be pulled by hand. Bodkin stated she had purchased a Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*) and a Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) to be added to the Pollinator Garden to attract bumblebees and Cedar Waxwings. Other wildflowers

have also been purchased and will be planted when the cardboard areas are ready. Bodkin reported that she has been interviewed by a reporter from the Pioneer Press/ Tribune about efforts in the Conservancy to cut down on the use of harmful herbicides. She mentioned these back-to-basic methods of hand pulling the weeds and using cardboard as weed barriers.

3. MOUND PLANS

This report was tabled due to absence of the Commissioner. Bodkin offered that the front of the mound is very attractive with the white Penstemon among the blue Veronica/Speedwell.

4. SCARECROW PLANNING

Commissioners brainstormed on issues of the 5th Scarecrow Event October 1-9, 2016.

It was agreed to have all peripheral activities - food, music, fun for kids - on the first afternoon.

Theme – Initially the theme was “Man’s Best Friend”, but the commissioners agreed it was too limiting. Brainstorming will have to continue for a new theme.

Music – Niedzinski will check on power source for music and CD’s and a person to manage.

Prizes – All commissioners agreed that the prizes should be 1st \$200, 2nd \$100, and 3rd and Commissioners’ Choice \$50 to entice more participation. Bodkin will discuss with Mayor McCombie.

Food – It is hoped that a restaurant could be asked to provide refreshments. Commissioners were not enthusiastic about a food truck, due to the upfront cost as well as gate from sales.

Judges- Bodkin stated she had two Barrington adults in mind. As was done last year, Munao will explore asking another art student at Barrington High, to acknowledge the interest factor from the younger generation.

Signage- Commissioners agreed this was a weak area in the past 4 events. Some monies for signage has been budgeted. Bill Pyter of South Barrington has offered to create a large sign for the Bartlett Rd. display. The Village agreed to send post cards out to all residents after the commissioners design the post card.

Exhibitors- Commissioners reviewed the past years’ exhibitors and assigned commissioners to visit the businesses and organizations in early July to give them three months to prepare.

Bodkin will create the sign up sheet and the letter with most of the information and invitation. Another South Barrington resident has agreed to help solicit businesses in the Arboretum for new scarecrow participation.

5. NEW SCOUT PROJECT

Commissioner Munao reported that she met with new Eagle Scout candidate Alec Jacobs and his parents and walked with them around the Conservancy, pointing out potential projects for the scout: completing the boulder bridge, completing the east path, or creating a ramp for the platform. She stated the scout suggested a “permanent scavenger hunt” to encourage children to play more out in nature, i.e. open teepees of willow branches. Bodkin mentioned a new scout, Blake Schorch, had indicated to her at Jagmin’s Award Ceremony that he was interested in building the ramp as his Eagle Scout project. Commmsioner Niedzinski voiced concerns about minimizing risk by ensuring railings and a non slip surface on the ramp. Munao

responded that the Scout's scope has to be approved by several persons who would ensure the plan met ADA requirements. Village personnel would also be involved in the final approval.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **BLUEBIRD MONITORING:** Bodkin reported 5 out of the 10 nesting boxes had Tree Swallows with eggs or fledglings. Fran Frain, a Regency resident has installed about 10 extra boxes of varying design. He reported, and Bodkin confirmed, that one of the boxes, number #2, near the Regency gate has 4 bluebird nestlings inside. Both Bodkin and Frain will monitor with binoculars.
2. **ARBORETUM PATH SUMAC WORK**
Bodkin announced she would help Regency clear the four sumac gardens on the Arboretum Path in late fall when the greenery has died back and trunks and weeds are easier to see.

NEW BUSINESS

1. TREE REPLACEMENT

Niedzinski reported talking with Village Administrator Bob Palmer. He and Mr. Palmer decided on a Tulip Popular tree to replace the dead chinquapin oak in the arboretum. Wire suggested two possible nurseries to purchase the tree. Wire agree to transport the tree to the Conservancy. The Village will need to contract with Dimonte to plant the tree.

2. CONSERVANCY POSTER TO PICNIC

Niedzinski asked a commissioner to take the Conservancy sign board to the upcoming Coves Subdivision picnic July 11, since he will not be in town. Bodkin agreed to take the board.

3. SEDGES IN REED CANARY FIELD

Wire agreed to purchase about 500 sedges and wetland wildflowers and send bill to Conservancy for eradication in the Reed Canary Grass field. He and Bodkin agreed on August 20 as the workday for planting. Bodkin will publicize the workday and recruit Volunteers. Sedges may need extra watering if planted in August. This expense is in the budget.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.
Next meeting will be July 21, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson