

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CONSERVANCY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 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
- Commissioner absent: Michael Niedzinski
- Resource: Dustin Wire

APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES: Motion by Commissioner Munao, seconded by Chrystall.
Passed with unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None voiced.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Bodkin announced she will not be able to attend the October 20 meeting. Chrystall and Munao also stated inability to attend. Motion made to move meeting to November 3 and combine October and November meeting. Motion passed; all three commissioners in attendance plus Dustin Wire are able to attend the November 3 meeting. Bodkin will notify Village Secretary to check ability for change of schedule.
- b. Bodkin announced a request from Girl Scout leader Christy Rebbeck asking the commission to consider a project in the Conservancy for the Gold Girl Award. Commissioners suggested help with the Boxwood Maze or planting seeds in spring, nurturing them through the summer to plant in the Pollinator Garden in the fall.
- c. Bodkin announced an invitation in L L Bean's Meetup website for volunteers to hike the Arboretum to Conservancy path October 16. She reported that Al Saller from the Regency has offered to help clean up the sumac areas along the trail with Bodkin October 4.
- d. Bodkin reported that Jeanie Zeigler of L L Bean would like to place a regular workday on the LL Bean Meetup website for weekly workday volunteers for projects in the Conservancy. The first Sunday afternoon of the month was suggested, to start in November.

2. WILDFLOWER/POLLINATOR GARDEN PLAN

Dustin Wire reported spraying the cattails and crown vetch in the Wildflower Garden. He also chopped tall grass stems in the culvert area to free up the water flow there. He reported that many of the wildflowers planted are doing well. He is gradually working to decrease the amount of Indian grass in that area to give the wildflowers more space. Pollinator Garden: Wire reported he spread wood chips on the remainder of the path. Commissioners commented on how attractive and inviting the weedless path appears now. Wire stated the crown vetch in the Pollinator Garden will need to be sponged by hand in order to eradicate but not harm the adjacent wildflowers. He will help guide this project. He said the same 'wicking' technique will need to be applied in the Sedge Meadow to kill the invasive Reed Canary Grass plants that survived the spraying.

3. MOUND PLANS

Chrystall reported the backside of the mound has been planted with plants from the Garden Club donation. She would like to see the harvested seeds stored over the winter and planted in pots in April to be nurtured till large enough to plant in the various gardens in the fall.

4. TREE REPLACEMENT

Wire reported he and Niedzinski purchased a excellent specimen 10' Emerald Tulip Tree From local Knupper's Nursery, added the package of amendments, and transported and planted the tree in the Conservancy themselves, saving about \$260 in charges. Niedzinski has been watering the tree weekly and it is thriving well. Chrystall will check on a gater bag to self-water till November.

5. SCOUT PROJECTS UPDATE

Munao reported she has not heard from Eagle Scout candidate Alex Jacobs for several weeks. He was concerned about the process of obtaining a permit. Munao informed him that the village may waive that requirement, but that the Conservancy needed to approve a sketch and other planning. Munao will contact Scout Jacobs to find out his schedule. She added the reminder there is another scout interested in this same project if Jacobs is no longer interested.

6. SCARECROW PLANNING

Signs: Chrystall is having street signs printed and will put them up around the subdivisions. Bodkin stated Olympic Signs has installed the large sign at the Bridges Drive Entrance.

Gifts for Judges: Munao reported that she may not have more of Scout Jagmin's mugs that were used last year for the judges. She was asked to purchase three mugs to have in case the Conservancy ones cannot be located.

Prizes: The current awards will be three awards donated by the management at the Arboretum. Discussion centered on possibility of a larger amount for the prizes In order to attract the homeowner associations, as there is no representation by

them in the current list of entrants. Bodkin will discuss with Mayor McCombie.

Volunteers: Bodkin announced there are seven volunteers from Barrington High and Prairie Station Middle School to help with setting up exhibits on Saturday morning and with serving refreshments, greeting visitors, and assisting the bubbler station. There are no volunteers assigned for Sunday.

Entrants: There are currently nineteen entrants planning to exhibit. They are aware to create scarecrow scenes that can withstand the weather for a week.

Refreshments: The Village is purchasing cookies, apples, and cider to be served on the trail.

Trail maintenance: Bodkin reported she and her husband have trimmed the overhanging grasses to widen the trail and have mowed and mulched the new sites. She did add the need to include these maintenance tasks in next year's budget as she and her husband will no longer be able to do the strenuous work.

OLD BUSINESS

Wire reminded the commissioners of the need to continue efforts to create new Trail pamphlets and updated brochures through the winter off season.

NEW BUSINESS

Munao reported a discussion with local elementary teachers about the possibility of scheduling field trips to the Conservancy for the elementary classes. She said the field trip would come under soil and water works in the curriculum. She will follow up with teachers for spring classes. Commissioners stated the many areas and features now developed that could relate to current curriculum.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next meeting will be November 3, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson