

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CONSERVANCY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None voiced.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Bodkin reminded commissioners that Jeanie Zeigler of L L Bean will be posting a regular monthly workday on the LL Bean Meetup website for volunteers for projects in the Conservancy the first Sunday afternoon of each month from 1:00-3:00. The first post will ask for volunteers for November 27 for buckthorn cutting. There will be no post for December but will start with January 8. Bodkin will attend and host each workday. If out of town, other commissioners will host in chair's absence, in order to establish a regular date for the workday. Bodkin reminded the commissioners of the goal of creating a nucleus of workday volunteers to help with the continuing restoration need. Dustin Wire offered loppers for the workday use.
- b. Bodkin asked commissioners to turn in for all expenses from the Scarecrow and other programs. She acknowledged in-kind donations from Commissioner Corinne and Eric Fernandez for continued efforts to beautify the entrance mound, planting shrubs and plants, and providing weed control, and for efforts beyond the Conservancy area clearing sumac gardens along the Arboretum path.

2. REVIEW OF SCARECROW EVENT

- a. Positive Comments: Trails looked so good, very creative entries, good to have the extended two weekends time frame, especially with the severe rain on both dates. Good turnout even with the rain, about 80 on each weekend, possibly 10 during week.

- b. Areas for improvement: Change placement of large Olympic sign on west side of Bartlett, just north of Bridges Drive entrance, for better visualization of oncoming traffic. Contact Marissa at Regency to notify residents next year of the dates for the Scarecrow event and determine the sign ordinance of the subdivision before setting up street signs.

Consider having scouts for community service helping organizations take down their exhibits on the last Sunday afternoon to make for a more orderly pick-up.

- c. Refreshments , awards, and prizes were deemed okay. Bodkin stated from the exit Polls that she would like to have an elementary judge as well next year, since so many of the exhibits are aimed at children. Commissioners agreed. Munao will co-ordinate with Rose or other elementary school for two or three potential judges. It was agreed to continue the three adult judges with BHS art student, and to have the children judges walk the trail separately with an adult.
- d. Soliciting: It was suggested to take a photo of the past exhibit when meeting with potential entrants for next year. Try Willow Creek Church. Explore working with N2publishing, the South Barrington Life magazine editorial staff to attend a networking meeting and promote the Scarecrow event in a business promotion sense. Munao and Chrystall agreed to attend and promote Scarecrow Event.
- e. Additional ideas: to add signs on the paths promoting other trails visitors could explore, showing other destinations in the Conservancy. Add a permanent sign designating a special "Quiet Place" in several areas in the Conservancy.

3. REPORT OF HUT INSTALLATION

Bodkin reported that the two huts from Barrington Breakfast Rotary and Barrington Area Community Foundation have been installed, one in the parking lot and one along the Scarecrow Trail. They will be used to personalize dissemination of brochures and information about the Conservancy trails, trees, and other features, as well as serve refreshments on workdays and at the Scarecrow event. Commissioners will help tomorrow take down tinsel and check out interior of the huts to get ready for winter use.

4. TREE CITY PLANNING

Commissioners discussed how the Conservancy could help with the village's submission for recognition as a Tree City, USA. The Conservancy will plan an annual Arbor Day celebration with planting of a tree and activities for school children. The first celebration will be April 28, 2017, planting a tree in a designated area in the Conservancy arboretum. Munao will check with local schools about putting the celebration event into their curriculum and a field trip bussing kids to the Conservancy for the celebration.

Commissioner Niedzinski agreed to be the Conservancy's liaison to the village's Tree Committee.

5. SCOUT PROJECTS UPDATE

Munao reported no further communication from Alex Jacobs since November 2 email responding to scout's concern about applying for a permit and Munao's advisement of submitting a sketch for the intended ramp for the observation deck project. Commissioners discussed the possibility of suggesting a different project, that of creating 6' split-log benches like those found in the National Parks. This idea could also be communicated to Christy Rebbeck for a project for the Gold Girl Award request. Commissioner Chrystall restated the suggestion of a wall of woven willows to define the back area of the future Boxwood Maze. Niedzinski suggested adding arbor vitae to make the wall denser. This idea could also be presented to the Gold Girls. Bodkin will notify the leader.

6. BROCHURE PLANNING

Bodkin showed a logo from a business in Oregon with crane, water, and grasses, and mountains, suggesting that the Conservancy modify it for its logo. Commissioners voiced approval. Jim Bodkin will work on the modification. Copy or text has been re-written to be ready for the logo. Bodkin will circulate among commissioners when complete.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners were reminded to be alert in the spring for the shrub Nine Bark to complete plantings on the mound.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Niedzinski offered his projector for future presentations from the Conservancy to the Board of Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
Next meeting will be January 19, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson