

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CONSERVANCY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017
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 Trustee: Dr. Anthony Stagno

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES: Motion by Commissioner Niedzinski, seconded by Munao. With correction for Munao turning in her Ethics Statement next week.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None voiced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Bodkin will be attending the Wild Things Seminar this coming Saturday at University of Illinois-Chicago. She will put in the budget for other commissioners to attend. Munao and Chrystall were interested in attending.

Bodkin handed out copies of Citizens for Conservation's Habitat Corridors Etc. publication, pointing out the articles on beehives, Serviceberry trees and Royal Catchfly plants and urging commissioners to read the articles.

Bodkin announced she will be talking with Susan Lenz from Barrington Area Conservation Trust in March about possible milkweed plants to encourage feeders for the Monarch.

Bodkin reminded commissioners of the change of date for next month's meeting to be March 2. Trustee Guranovich will be attending.

AGENDA :

I. MAINTENANCE:

A. BURN

Bodkin reported the resolution for the funding of \$3000 for the upcoming controlled burn was signed by the Board of Trustees on February 9. Applied Ecological Services will do the burn. Dustin Wire will be the liaison to the Conservancy. AES will notify the local fire departments and have large street caution signs. Commissioner Chrystall will add the signs she stored from three years ago. The village will send out post cards to the homeowners in a close radius. News will be placed on the Village Update for Homeowner Associations to share with their members.

B. TRAILS

Bodkin met with Ron DiMonte to discuss laying wood chips on the scarecrow trail. Spot filling would be the best method, designating three areas in need of more chips. DiMonte will also spray and cut down the tall grasses along the scarecrow trail and the individual sites to get everything ready for the Scarecrow Event.

C. MOUND SPRAYING

Ron DiMonte agreed to spray the east half of the mound weeds every other week in the spring and once in summer and fall for \$175.

D. HUTS

Mike Moreland , Village Buildings and Zoning, stated he is talking with a local high school to have their construction class create the roofs for the huts. Bodkin reported the Regency Clubhouse donated 4 upholstered chairs for the interior of the huts. These chairs are now inside the huts.

II. CAPITAL PROJECTS

A. MOUND

Commissioner outlined her plans for work donated by her landscapers to create a stone stream on the east side of the mound. She added the benefits of this creation would be aesthetics seen from the road, as well as erosion control and an access to the top and sides for plant maintenance. She expects this project to start in July or August when the ground is hard and the boulders can be moved across the grass area.

B. TREE LABELS

Commissioner Munao will bring comparison tables of costs of several companies and some samples for commissioners to decide to purchase. The commission will engage Dustin Wire to walk the arboretum with commissioner Nledzinski to confirm the titles and locations of the existing trees in order for the tagging and new brochure to be correct. Tags will need to be added for Linden, Serviceberry, and Tulip Tree.

C. BOXWOOD MAZE

Bodkin reported the workday scheduled for First Sunday of the month at 1:00-3:00 started in December, but skipped the January date due to absence and predicted snow. The next scheduled workday will be March 5. A drawing will need to be created to show the plan. It is hoped that some of the scouts from a local troop can help chop some of the willow branches in between the boxwood rows.

Trustee Stagno shared a photo of a labyrinth that could be an inspiration for another play space for kids in a corner of the arboretum. The commission will store the idea for future play projects.

D. RAMP

Bodkin reported that the previous Eagle Scout John Jagmin and the current Eagle Scout candidate Alec Jacobs are collaborating to determine the best design of the ramp to present to the commission. After the commission approves, the plans will be sent to the Village for adherence to the village codes and obtaining a permit. The third phase, the long durable asphalt path will begin after the two phases are complete, hopefully with help from grants and other entities.

III. PROGRAM/COMMITTEE PROJECTS

A. ARBOR DAY

The commission is working on plans for the Arbor Day April 28 celebration in connection with fulfilling the requirements for designation as Tree City, USA.

Mayor McCombie will speak at 1:00 with several village staff members in attendance, as well as possible residents from Regency and Autumn Leaves, which will be invited.

Commissioner Nledzinski and Dustin Wire are charged with buying the Serviceberry, digging the hole, and placing the tree in the hole, ready for the ceremony. Bodkin will take photos of shoveling dirt on the trunk for press release. We will not be able to have kids at future ceremonies due to the school testing schedule occurring in April.

B. BROCHURE

Bodkin will work with Village Secretary Liz Chabalowski to create a new brochure. Munao clarified that Barrington High School graphics class was responsible for the Tree Walk brochure, which also will need updating.

C. NEWSLETTER

Bodkin states she is still working on ideas for this project, as well as updating the Conservancy part of the Village website.

D. BLUEBIRD NESTING BOXES

Bodkin reported she will work with Fran Frain to clean and move some of the existing boxes to places easier for monitoring. These jobs will need to be done before March in order to have the boxes ready for the birds on their schedule.

IV. BUDGET PLANNING

Bodkin reviewed the budget with the commissioners line by line. She had previously Discussed the items and expenses with Village Treasurer Michelle Bodie.

Regarding Maintenance, Commissioners agreed to Ron DiMonte's spraying the east end of the mound and widening and spraying the scarecrow trail before the event. Also discussed was an application for the Openlands ComEd grant for native wildflowers and sedges for the sedge meadow to crowd out the Reed Canary Grass invasives. The grant will be requesting \$1000, matched by \$500 from the Village.

Regarding Capital Projects, commissioners agreed to place in the budget expenses for a tree for the Arbor Day celebration and any other tree that needs to be replaced, and funds for new plants for the Pollinator garden, and tree label expense.

Regarding the Committee Account, Commissioners agreed to include expenses for the Arbor Day celebration, the Conservancy brochure, added expense for attending conservation seminars, and extra expenses for signage and awards for the Scarecrow event.

MOTION: To approve the 2017-2018 budget for \$16,175. Made by Commissioner Munao, seconded by Commissioner Niedzinski. Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

The Arboretum Path discussion was tabled for next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Also tabled was discussion about a suggestion by Commissioner Chrystall to create our own community KidFest with activities for children in the Conservancy, using the pressed Leaves note card we had done before, and adding activities to that.

Commissioner Niedzinski urged the commission to have another event like the Grand Opening in 2006. Commissioners agreed to consider the suggestion.

Commissioner Munao would like to schedule an outing in the Conservancy with her Countryside class some time in the spring.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.
Next meeting will be March 2, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson