

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CONSERVANCY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Bodkin at 7:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

- Commissioners present: Diane Bodkin, Nancy Munao, Corinne Chrystall,
Absent: Michael Niedzinski
Guests: Steve Guranovich, Dustin Wire

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES: Motion by Commissioner Chrystall, seconded by Munao.
Passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None voiced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Bodkin welcomed and introduced Trustee Steve Guranovich attending the session.

Trustee Kerman will be attending the April 18 Conservancy commission meeting.

Bodkin reported on her attendance at the Wild Things Seminar at University of Illinois-Chicago, adding that the budget for next year has a line item for other commissioners to attend.

Bodkin announced ahead of time that she will be receiving one of the highest awards that Citizens for Conservation gives at the upcoming annual meeting for her leadership in restoring the Conservancy in the past five years. She thanked the commission members, Wire, and Village for helping make that award possible.

Trustee Guranovich mentioned in his recent village committee meeting, they discussed the requirements to meet for the application for Tree City, USA designation. The committee members agreed the Conservancy would be a good group to complete the annual Arbor Day celebration requirement. Bodkin responded that the commissioners are already under way preparing for this event on April 28, including adjusting the time to 1:00 p.m. to accommodate the mayor's Schedule.

Bodkin announced that the South Barrington Garden Club is donating \$500 to the Conservancy for plants in the Pollinator Garden.

AGENDA :

I. MAINTENANCE:

A. BURN

Dustin Wire, ecologist and liaison to Applied Ecological Services, the company doing the burn, gave a progress report, stating the EPA permit is in hand. He states the burn should

take about 8 hours. He anticipates the dates to be between March 20 and April 5, when an easterly wind is most probable. Wire will notify Commissioners Munao and Chrystall if the date occurs during Bodkin's absence. Wire will mow around the trees to serve as fire breaks and lessen the total time for the actual burn. AES has street signs for Bartlett Rd. Commissioner Chrystall has subdivision street signs from 2014 burn she will place on streets when the burn week is known. Bodkin will ask Village Secretary Liz Chabalowski to add a note about the burn in the Weekly Update when the time is known. She will also notify the Social Director for Regency homeowners. Post cards were sent in 2014 to residents nearby. Perhaps this year, a notification could be sent to the homeowners association Presidents to disseminate the news. Bodkin and Wire will walk the grounds in the coming week to prioritize the burn areas. Both Reed Canary fields and the Scarecrow fields are priorities.

Wire stated as reasons for burning: to allow for more diversity of plants, to kill or weaken invasive plants, to stimulate grasses to grow, to open up areas for smaller native plants to get ahead start on the larger plants.

B. SEDGE MEADOW

Bodkin announced that she and Village Engineer Natalie Karney were working on an Openlands grant to add another \$500 worth of sedges and wildflowers to create two 50'x50' plots of land to fill. The Village is matching \$500. Wire recommended placing the new plots in an "L" shape. He stated the natural depression in the field allows for moisture for the plants. He will burn the plots and spray to make the ready for the planting. He said the plots should be ready in April. One plot will be good for moist land, and the other will do better in drier lands. Wire will be the liaison to Taylor Creek Nurseries for \$1000 worth of sedges and wildflowers. If the village receives the grant, Bodkin will ask garden club members to help with the plantings again. Bodkin will check on watering with a gas driven pump and water from the nearby creek.

II. CAPITAL PROJECTS

A. TREE LABELS

Commissioner Munao gave the report on the tree labels. She will distribute a packet to the commissioners with samples of the labels with fonts and sizes. Trustee Guranovich suggested the brown background as blending more with the trunk tones. The consensus of the commissioners was for the brown background with white or cream lettering, with the common name and Latin name. The labels will be made from an anodized aluminum base. She recommends a company in Carol Stream called Name Plate and Panel Technology. The price would be \$11.50 each for a lot of 30, using a coated wire, about \$345. Bodkin added that \$500 has been budgeted for the project. Munao added she would like to use this company later for interpretive signage. Munao will make packets

with fonts and samples. Commissioners were urged to look on the website, myplant labels to see colors and fonts. Bodkin cautioned the commission to wait on ordering the labels until the exact trees are known, as some have died and been replaced and some do not match the current map. When more of the leaves have come out, Wire, Bodkin, and Niedzinski will walk the Arboretum and determine the exact labels and names to order.

B. BOXWOOD MAZE

Bodkin reported six volunteers are expected to attend the upcoming workday Sunday to help clear the willows between the boxwood rows. Workers are urged to bring gloves and loppers if handy. Two persons on the LL Bean Meetup Group have indicated they will attend. Bodkin will check out how to create a good detailed map from Google Earth.

C. RAMP

Commissioner Munao described for Trustee Guranovich the history behind the ramp and observation platform and the three phases to the project. It was agreed that asphalt was the best base for the third phase path around the picnic grounds to the ramp. No news from the scouts. Trustee Guranovich stated that he and his family have made numerous walks throughout the entire Conservancy grounds.

III. BUDGET PLANNING

The budget of \$16,175 was approved by the commission at last month's Meeting and sent to the Village Treasurer to be sent on to the Board of Trustees. Commissioners had no changes or addition, with possibly more needed for the mowing for the scarecrow event. Trustee Guranovich stated the Board may approve the village budget at this week's Board meeting.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Tabled: Suggestion by Chrystall to create a community KidFest in the Conservancy.
Suggestion by Niedzinski to have another large event like the Grand Opening in 2010.
Suggestion by Munao to schedule an outing with Countryside class in spring.

Suggestions by Munao and Chrystall to create signs for paths and large sign showing map of the whole Conservancy with trails and "You Are Here" by the hut. Guranovich suggested having more obvious signs for walkers coming from the sidewalk toward the Arboretum.

Suggestion by Wire to complete the incomplete path on the east side of the swale to connect with Bridges Dr.

Trustee Guranovich stated the Village owns the parcel of land south east of the Conservancy. It is not Conservancy land.

Chrystall and Munao discussed the vibernum path as a good path but very uneven holes. Regarding the brochure, Bodkin added that she and Village Secretary will work on it Together soon. The hold up is creating small photos for the mock-up. Nancy will

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.
Next meeting will be April 20, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson