

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
**CONSERVANCY COMMISSION**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 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,  
Commissioner Absent: Michael Niedzinski  
Guests: Bernard Kerman, Dustin Wire

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None voiced.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chair Bodkin welcomed and introduced Trustee Bernie Kerman attending the session. Bodkin reported on her participation in the Citizens for Conservation Youth Ed event at Countryside Elementary School in observation of Earth Week. She was invited to attend as the photographer. She told the commissioners that the four stations of activities might be a good idea for a future Conservancy educational event.

**AGENDA :**

**I. MAINTENANCE:**

**A. BURN:**

Dustin Wire reported the burn crew is waiting for the right wind direction. However, he recommended splitting the project. The cattails are the area that needs the easterly wind. The rest of the Conservancy could be burned any time. Wire assured Trustee Kerman that the burn would only minimally affect the Residents nearby. He mentioned a web site the crew follows, NOAA weather.gov. He will send the specific address later. The web site has wind direction, when it will switch, ventilation rates. When the burn day is known, Wire will notify Bodkin and she will notify the Village, the Park District, and Commissioner Chrystall who will set up street signs. Bodkin will photograph the project.

## **B. SEDGE MEADOW:**

Wire described the strategy to Trustee Kerman, saying the theory is to plant a high concentration of sedges and forbs to crowd out the persistently invasive Reed Canary Grass. Herbiciding and burning and mowing have already been used. Bodkin added she had not yet heard from the Openlands/ComEd grant for \$500 more plants for this project. Wire added that the Conservancy planted 400 plants last summer in a 50' square plot, and now intend to create two more same size plots to be filled with 400 plants each as well. One plot of plants has been budgeted; the other is anticipation of the grant funding. Wire stated the Reed Canary Grass was growing in that field when the Conservancy was first created around 2006, used to be a cow pasture, will having fencing up. Wire recommended late June for planting the next plots when the ground is ready. He expects to order from Taylor Creek the same mix of 2/3 sedges and 1/3 forbs. Bodkin directed Wire to go ahead and order the plants from Taylor Creek for the first plot, and Bodkin will find the volunteer planters from the Garden Club as in the past planting.

## **II. CAPITAL PROJECTS**

### **A. TREE LABELS:**

Commissioner Munao gave Trustee Kerman the more than five-year history of the commission's efforts to create tree labels. At this meeting, the commission agreed on the 2" x 4" size, the brown tone on metal, and the # 4 Frutiger font, bold block lettering with a line between the common name and the Latin name. Commissioners also agreed to add a number in the top left of the frame to coincide with a number to be published in the revised "Tree Walk" brochure. The labels will be hung with two wires from the lowest branch of the trees. Trustee Kerman voiced strong support for this project and the interest and class it would add to the overall Conservancy image. Commissioners discussed the revisions to the Tree Walk brochure. Bodkin and Wire will walk the arboretum again and confirm the exact location and names of the trees and give the titles and number to Munao who will place the order with the company. Commissioners and Wire will update the map with the new information. Kerman suggested a more legible font for the tree names in the brochure. Commissioners agreed to keep the green color but have a simpler font. Munao will contact the Graphic Arts Department at Barrington High School that had created the brochure initially to ascertain if the "Alter Document and Reprint" work could be done before the school session is over. If not possible, Munao will ask to have the project be placed on the early fall schedule.

Thirty labels will be ordered, including three European Lindens, a new Serviceberry, a new Tulip tree, and a Swamp White Oak. Munao will need a copy of the tax exempt status form from the Village office. At the next meeting, Commissioner Chrystall will report on a new name for the N.P.M. on the brochure.

**B. EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:**

Eagle Scout candidate Alec Jacobs delivered a packet of his drawings to the Village office in the afternoon. This packet was opened during the commission meeting. The packet contained Jacobs' application for a permit, photos of the existing front of the platform, and several top views and one diagram of the proposed ramp, coming off the platform in the front right of the steps. Bodkin stated this plan was not what had been envisioned for the ramp addition. Months ago she and Mike Moreland had walked the site and agreed on a diagonal ramp. Jacobs had not talked with Moreland or with original scout builder Jagmin before creating the submitted design. Commissioners agreed that Bodkin should confer with Moreland and Jagmin, and then send an email to Jacobs entailing a strong revision to his original plan.

**C. WORKDAY SCHEDULE;**

Bodkin restated the need to continue the regular monthly workday schedule, even though there has been minimal interest and support from village residents. She is Working with LL Bean Meet up group and with scout Alex Ziegler to bring some of his scouts from the Community Service delegation to help with May or June workday. She stated the last row of willows in the boxwood maze still needs to be cleared, as does the flat area west of the boxwood rows. She added the wood duck box building project might be on the schedule for mid summer workday, depending on Wire's schedule.

**III. PROGRAMS**

**A. ARBOR DAY REPORT:**

Bodkin reported the Village will be celebrating Arbor Day April 28 in the Conservancy at 1:00-1:30 p.m. This celebration, done annually will fulfill one of the requirements for designation of Tree City, USA. Wire has agreed to transport a large Serviceberry from St. Aubin's in Belvidere to the plant site. Niedzinski will contact Ron DiMonte to dig the hole and have ready for the new tree. Bodkin will invite the residents from Autumn Leaves, the Garden Club, the Regency, and former Mayor Munao. Bodkin will take photos. Mayor McCombie has agreed to welcome the attendees at 1:00 and give some background on the celebration. Bodkin will tell the short history of national Arbor Day celebration and the reason for the Serviceberry selection. Following the talks, the attendees will shovel dirt on the base of the new tree and then join others for pie.

**B. REGULAR TRASH PICKUP ASSIGNMENTS:**

Bodkin stated the need for the commissioners to walk the Conservancy on a weekly schedule to pick up trash and to get a continued idea of what is happening to the property. The Park District is doing a good job emptying the trash cans weekly, and DiMonte is willing to pick up branches if clustered near the parking lot.

The weekly pick up schedule will be:

1 <sup>st</sup> week of the month:	Corinne Chrystall
2 <sup>nd</sup> week:	Nancy Munao
3 <sup>rd</sup> week:	Diane Bodkin
4 <sup>th</sup> week:	Michael Niedzinski

Bodkin will send notices to the commissioners telling their week is coming up. She will send the first one to Niedzinski to start the coming week, which is the 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners will walk the full picnic grounds, the observation platform, along Bridges Drive.

Chrystall will talk with Dimonte on Wednesday about his plan for spraying the weeds on the front of the mound.

**C. BLUEBIRD NESTING BOXES:**

Bodkin reported of the 10 Eagle Scout boxes, there are no bluebirds, no nests yet. Fran Frain who put up 10 smaller boxes reports one or two have bluebird eggs in them now.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ENTRANCE MOUND:**

Chrystall reported she is watching the hundred plants from the Garden Club that she planted on the north side of the mound. The Commission is asking the club for another donation of \$500 for more flowers. Corinne will talk with DiMonte about spraying the front half of the mound soon.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SCIENCE CLASS AT CONSERVANCY:**

Munao presented plans for a science class field trip for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Countryside in May. She has all the teaching supplies and information. Would Need volunteers and method of transportation and definite stations for Learning. The subject would be "Soil and Erosion". It is hoped this would be A preview of what the Conservancy could do for the local schools and could

Entertain the possibility of placing the field trip in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. Commissioners voiced concern at trying to create a quality program for such a large group of children on such short notice. Munao will talk with other teachers and department head to determine if this plan is workable.

Trustee Kerman talked with the commissioners about the water treatment plant in the Regency, pulling the water from Wisconsin in a 200' well and distributing it to The Arboretum, and the residents in the Regency and the Woods. He invited the Commissioners to join the residents for a tour of the water treatment plant either June 3 or June 24 when Jason Fowler from Schaeffer & Roland will be giving a Guided tour. Trustee Kerman will send a reminder to commissioners before the event.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.  
Next meeting will be May 18, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson