

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CONSERVANCY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 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: Alec Jacobs and Mrs. Jacobs

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None voiced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chrystall mentioned the article on Bodkin in the May edition of *South Barrington Life*, about her being awarded the Citizen's for Conservation's Award for leading restoration work in the South Barrington Conservancy.

AGENDA :

I. EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:

The Commission heard Eagle Scout candidate Alec Jacobs of Troop 10 presented his plan, adopting the computer-generated design by Jim Bodkin, showing a 20' ramp coming off the existing platform at 30°.

He stated he had conferred with John Jagmin on the type of wood and the design.

He had also conferred with Mike Moreland, Buildings and Zoning, about the design.

Jacobs' project will follow the look of the original platform and will add a gravel base under the ramp.

He stated his main fundraising efforts would be asking friends and family for donations, along with using his own savings. Commissioners and Moreland suggested checking with building supply stores and other companies for discounts to scouts.. Commissioners asked Jacobs to add a weed-inhibited fabric under the gravel to minimized future maintenance. Jacobs said he would look into that feature. Bodkin stated she would sign the Permit Application at Village Hall on Monday and the scout can start his project.

II. MAINTENANCE:

A. BURN:

Commissioners agreed the burn would probably not take place this spring. Everything is green now. The birds, insects, and animals would be harmed with a fire. Bodkin will talk with the burn crew about possibly burning in the fall.

B. SEDGE MEADOW:

Bodkin reported she hasn't heard from the Openlands/Com Ed grant for the plants for the eradication program in the sedge meadow. She stated the plan was still on, and budgeted for, to plant 400 more plants in a new plot near the existing one in the meadow. She will check on the survival of the previous plantings. Dustin Wire has agreed to be the liaison to the nursery for purchasing the plants and supervising the planting in mid-July. Bodkin will ask garden club members to help plant.

II. CAPITAL PROJECTS

A. TREE LABELS:

Bodkin recapped the progress so far: brown-tone metal labels, 2"x 4" horizontal, block font #4 Frutiger with bold large print for common name, a line between the two names, the Latin name also in block letters. Labels will contain numbers to correspond with the numbers on the Tree Walk brochure and placement on the map. Dustin Wire has walked the arboretum grounds with Bodkin and agreed on the specific identification of the trees. Bodkin, Chrystall, and Munao will take the tree list to the My Plant Labels in Carol Stream in early June to place the order. Munao says the cost may be \$395 for 30 labels. This amount has been budgeted for the 2017-2018 budget. Four new trees have been added to the list: Serviceberry, Tulip Tree, Linden, and Swamp White Oak. Three trees have been lost, Chinquapin Oak, Pagoda, and Ironwood. Wire determined that the Ironwood tree is the same species as the existing Hornbeam.

B. WORKDAY SCHEDULES:

Bodkin restated the need to continue the regular monthly workday schedule, even though there has been minimal interest and support from village residents. She will contact LL Bean Meet up group and scout Alex Ziegler to bring some of his scouts from the Community Service delegation to help with the June workday. She stated one more 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 placed on the schedule for mid summer workday, depending on Wire's schedule.

III. PROGRAMS

A. ARBOR DAY REPORT:

Bodkin reported the first Arbor Day celebration on April 28 was claimed a success. About 28 persons attended: Mayor McCombie, former Mayor Munao, Trustee Guranovich, Village Treasurer Bodie, Village Engineer Karney, Buildings and Zoning Moreland, commissioners Bodkin, Chrystall, and Niedzinski, and residents from the Regency and South Barrington. Mayor McCombie welcomed the attendees, and Bodkin introduced the Serviceberry tree to be an ideal addition to the arboretum as a source of food for birds and a source of beauty through the seasons. Attendees placed a token shovel of dirt on the tree trunk. Commissioner Chrystall was commended for creating a classy, elegant bistro ambience in the parking lot for attendees to enjoy refreshments and fellowship after the tree ceremony. Bodkin reported she has watered the tree twice and will continue weekly till the end of the month.

B. REGULAR TRASH PICKUP ASSIGNMENTS:

Commissioner Chrystall reported seeing persons dumping personal trash in the Conservancy trash can. Commissioners voiced realization that because the Conservancy is an open public place without guards, there is no solution to preventing persons from dumping personal trash in the trash cans. Chrystall stated she has picked up trash these past few weeks. Munao stated she cannot pick up till after the school classes are over in June. Chrystall and Bodkin will share the Bridges Drive pick up and the picnic grounds trash for these coming weeks. The Park District has a cooperative agreement to pick up the trash weekly in the two large cans for the Conservancy.

C. BLUEBIRD NESTING BOXES:

Bodkin reported of the 10 Eagle Scout boxes, there are no bluebirds, but several tree swallows nests with 5-6 eggs in three. Fran Frain who put up 10 smaller boxes reports one or two have bluebird eggs in them now.

OLD BUSINESS

ENTRANCE MOUND:

Bodkin reported that Ron DiMonte is contracted to spray the front half of the mound and has done so twice. It was agreed that the area is so dense with an underground network of weeds that it will take several treatments to protect the plants. Chrystall reported that she hasn't seen evidence of the 80 plants she nurtured and planted last fall. It was agreed to keep monitoring, as they may be slow in returning.

ARBORETUM PATH:

Chrystall reported that her landscapers cleared the four sumac areas last fall. Regency volunteers weeded and Bodkin sprayed the areas with Roundup. All the four gardens still need much more intense spraying. Bodkin will ask Village Administrator Palmer to look into having them professionally sprayed. The path contains the Conservancy name, so it is important to have it look as attractive as possible. Clean sumac areas could add a lot of beauty to the path.

NEW BUSINESS

A. SCARECROW TRAIL WALK 2017

September 30 and October 1, were selected for the Scarecrow Event. Chrystall suggested phrases or sayings using the word "TIME" for this year's theme. The commissioners agreed they need to start publicizing and soliciting organizations now to start thinking of participating with a scarecrow exhibit. Bodkin will create a hand out sheet of information.

SCIENCE CLASS AT CONSERVANCY:

Munao presented plans for a District 220 Summer School science class field trip for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in the Conservancy possibly in the middle of June. The subject would be 'Soil and Water". Munao has all the teaching supplies and information. Bodkin and Chrystall voiced desire to help. When the actual date is determined, Bodkin plans to ask BACOG Director Janet Agnoletti to talk with the students about the village monitoring water levels.

Munao voiced hope that this class could be a preview for the school administrations and teachers to become aware of how the Conservancy could enhance the education curricula of local elementary schools with specific field trips.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.
Next meeting will be June 15, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson