

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CONSERVANCY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 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: Trustee Therese Cohen and Deb Bachmeier

APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES: Motion by Commissioner Chrystall, seconded by Munao.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None voiced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Bodkin welcomed Trustee Cohen and Deb Bachmeier and asked them to tell a little about themselves. Trustee Cohen has served as President of the Ponds Home-owners Association and currently serves on the Village Board's Public Safety Committee and Legal Committee. She invited the commissioners to attend the Committee meetings each month on the Thursday before the Board meeting. Bachmeier is a Regency resident, a Registered Nurse and instructs in the Certified Nurses Aide program at Harper College.

Bodkin called attention to the full- page article in the June *South Barrington Life* featuring the Arbor Day celebration. The article, written by Bodkin with photography by Jim Bodkin, contained photos of Conservancy Commissioners Chrystall and Bodkin, current Mayor McCombie, former Mayor Frank Munao, and Trustee Guranovich. Other photos include the gathering around the Serviceberry tree for the ceremony and the bistro setting for refreshments and fellowship.

Village Engineer Natalie Karney presented the letter from Openlands/Com Ed awarding the Village with the Conservancy's first grant for matching \$500 for sedges and forbs to plant in the Sedge Meadow to push out the invasive Reed Canary Grass.

Bodkin announced she had received word from Village Administrator Bob Palmer and Mayor McCombie about an environmental seminar given at Bartlett Nature Center June 29, entitled "Pollinators, Monarchs, Rusty Patched Bumble Bees, and Habitat Guidelines." She stated she is planning to attend and asked commissioners for their interest. Both Munao and Chrystall voiced interest.

AGENDA :

I. MAINTENANCE:

A. TREE MAINTENANCE:

Bodkin announced that she and Commissioner Niedzinski trimmed the east half of the trees in the arboretum, clearing suckers, and broken branches. She stated the other half of the arboretum also needs attention. The Scarlet Oak survived the winter and the drought but is in need of strategic pruning. She will discuss with Niedzinski and Munao about completion of the tree maintenance project. The new Serviceberry is struggling and even though watered daily the first three weeks of its planting, is now showing signs of needing more water from the fifteen day drought just recently experienced. Bodkin will water every three days during drought times.

B. SEDGE MEADOW:

The village received the matching grant award from Openlands/Com Ed for the plants for the eradication program in the sedge meadow. The plan is to plant 400 plants in the 50' x 50' new plot adjacent to the existing planted plot. An additional 50'x50' plot was already budgeted for planting before receipt of grant. Dustin Wire has agreed to be the liaison to the nursery for purchasing the plants and supervising the planting in early July. Bodkin will ask garden club members to help plant, as they did last year, possibly in late June or July.

II. CAPITAL PROJECTS

A. TREE LABELS:

Munao gave history and background of the long search for the right product. Bodkin demonstrated samples of the nameplates to be used on the trees – size and color and font. All commissioners, and Mayor and Trustee Cohen present, voiced approval of the choice. Bodkin reported she visited the Name Plate and Panel Technology shop in Carol Stream and secured the information to place the order. Thirty nameplates will cost \$322. Commissioners agreed that Bodkin would return to the shop and place the order with the list of 30 trees with common and Latin names and a line between the two names on the plate, and a number will be added to correspond with the “Tree Walk” brochure and map. “South Barrington Conservancy” will be printed on the bottom right of the plate. Commissioners agreed to join Bodkin for pick up when notified. Mike Moreland advised galvanized wire, secured loosely to the branch. This work will be done by competent volunteers. Munao added that the Barrington High School Graphics Arts Dept. would be contacted again to create the brochure. She mentioned needed changes in the layout and also updates, like the paths on the map.

B. WORKDAY SCHEDULES:

Bodkin voiced disappointment in the attendance at the monthly workdays scheduled. Commissioners offered contributing factors such as the heat of the summer, the tick season, and the fact that the program is still new. Bodkin will continue to plan interesting work tasks, not just weeding, to catch volunteers attention. She will also continue communication with LL Bean's "MeetUp" program. She will also notify the garden club specifically with special work projects. Chrystall added that her landscapers usually dig holes ahead of time to make the tasks easier for volunteers.

C. EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:

Commissioner Munao reported no report of progress from Scout Jacobs. Commissioners voiced trust in the scout to complete his project on his own schedule. Munao outlined the three –phase project to Trustee Cohen and Bachmeier. Trustee Cohen voiced approval at the use of asphalt for the third phase "solid surface" for persons with disabilities. It was suggested to make the initial pad be wide enough for the Autumn Leaves van.

III. PROGRAMS

A. ENTRANCE MOUND:

Commissioner Chrystall voiced her goals in selection of native plants to show residents plants that might work out well in their own yards, hardy and beneficial to insects. She outlined the current efforts to keep the large volume of weeds under control. Ron DiMonte has been contracted to spray the front half of the mound. Chrystall and Bodkin spent three hours Thursday morning pulling persistent thistle weeds to give the mound a clean clear appearance from Bridges Drive. Chrystall reported that about fifty percent of the plants from the garden club donation survived the winter and the current drought and are thriving now with frequent watering. The South Barrington Garden Club again this year donated \$500 for plants and mulch on the mound. Chrystall reminded commissioners of her vision to have a river stream coming down the front of the mound with stones, boulders, and perfect plants. Trustee Cohen termed the mound 'constructively naturalized". Chrystall added her vision to take children on walks through the mound to learn about the native plants.

B. REGULAR TRASH PICKUP ASSIGNMENTS:

Commissioners agreed the trash pickup assignments are not working. Chrystall visits the Conservancy each morning and will pick up trash as she sees it. Bodkin will also scout the entire picnic area and along Bridges Drive as she waters the plants.

C. BLUEBIRD NESTING BOXES:

Bodkin reported of the 10 Eagle Scout boxes, there are still no bluebirds, but several tree swallows nests with 5-6 eggs in three. Of the fifteen or so boxes built and erected by Fran Frain, Bodkin reported she has observed one of the boxes had two parent bluebirds atop the roof and inside were three bluebird nestlings. She will continue to check on the babies to assess fledging time.

D. SCARECROW EVENT PLANS

Bodkin reminded commissioners of their desire to start exhibit soliciting early in July to visit the past exhibiting organizations. She gave Chrystall and Munao a copy of the 2017 Application form to give to the organizations they visit. The theme this year will be "It's About Time!" The titles must have the word "Time" in them. Yet to be decided is whether to continue the exhibits up for two weekends and the week in between. Commissioners felt it was difficult for organizations to create a scarecrow scene that would withstand the potential rain that long. Reports from attendance did indicate that about 150 visitors came the second week as 150 the opening week. The fact that it rained the first weekend possibly helped bring more visitors to the second weekend. Bodkin will discuss the nine- day continuation with the Mayor. Bodkin also announced she would like to contract Gordy the (Soap)Bubbler again this year for about \$200 as a draw for the children. He was scheduled to come last year but canceled because of rain. Bodkin will check his availability for Sept 30 this year. Bodkin also stated, since the event has tended to draw children as much as adults, she would like to have one of the three outside judges be an 8th grader, instead of an "almost adult" high school student. Munao will talk with school officials to secure a mature, articulate art student. Bodkin will secure two other judges from the Barrington community. Commissioners agreed to keep the same awards to judges, the mugs with classy chocolates at a cost of about \$50, and the prizes of \$100 gift certificate for 1st place, \$50 for 2nd, and \$25 for 3rd, and \$25 for Honorable Mention. Exhibitors selected by commissioners to solicit are as follows:

**CHRYSTALL: BMO Harris, Barrington Ladies Bunco, LL Bean
(Toll Brothers)**

**MUNAO: Holy Family Catholic Academy, GiGi's Playhouse,
Ryco Landscaping, Pinstripes, Mathnasium
Hoffman Estates Animal Hospital, Dr. Shandley
Noah's Ark Christian Academy
(PIC Theater)**

**BODKIN: Arboretum, Autumn Leaves, Police Dept,
Park District, Village Hall Staff,
Papadakis and Bravo Talent,
(Regency and The Woods)**

**Others: *PIC Theater, Toll Brothers, Regency and Woods.
ANY Subdivision Homeowners Associations,
Painter's Palette, and other Arboretum Stores
Sherwin Williams Paint, CVS, Anna Shay,
Scouts**

OLD BUSINESS

MILKWEED GARDEN:

Of the twenty-six milkweed plants transplanted by members of the garden club two weeks Ago, about 20 survived. Common Milkweed and Swamp Milkweed plants were dug up from paths in the Conservancy and transplanted in the Milkweed Garden. Bodkin reported she has watered the plants each day to ensure their success. There are five more pre-dug holes remaining to be filled with more plants dug up from the middle of the paths.

ARBORETUM PATH:

Bodkin reported that Village Administrator Palmer is contracting with Ron DiMonte to spray the four sumac areas. The path contains the Conservancy name, so it is felt important to have it look as attractive as possible.

SCIENCE CLASS AT CONSERVANCY:

Munao reported that District 220 does not have the resources to include a field trip to the Conservancy for a "Soil and Water" class in their summer school program this summer. Munao will keep all her teaching supplies for possible use in the future. Munao voiced hope that this opportunity might be a good preview for the District 220 to be aware of the Conservancy as a good venue for a science field trip and eventually place it in the school curriculum.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business discussed at this time.

Discussion of the Boxwood Maze was put on hold.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next meeting will be July 20, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson