

**CONSERVANCY COMMISSION**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Bodkin at 7:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

- Commissioners present: Diane Bodkin, Nancy Munao, Deb Bachmeier, Aga Razvi  
Commissioner absent: Corinne Chrystall  
Guests: Trustee Bernard Kerman, Dustin Wire

**APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES:** Motion by Commissioner Munao, seconded by Commissioner Bachmeier.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None voiced.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Chairman Bodkin reported 29 of the 30 tree nameplates have been installed on the trees in the arboretum picnic grounds. The “Scarlet Oak” nameplate was not hung and kept for future use, as there are no Scarlet Oaks currently in the arboretum. Commissioner Munao agreed to modify and revise the current “Tree Walk” brochure to reflect the new tree additions and changes. The trail map will also need to be updated. Bodkin will call a group meeting to work on the brochure revision during winter.
2. The Eagle Scout project seems to be on hold at present. However, the scout is allowed to work at his own pace and schedule.
3. Volunteers have been secured for the two sedge plantings Sept 10 and Sept 17 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Bodkin added that the Garden Club President and a Girl Scout troop with about 4 scouts will help on September 10<sup>th</sup>, and the local Boy Scout Troop 10 will help with September 17<sup>th</sup> planting. Trustee Kerman suggested having the scouts and parents attend one of the Village Board meetings to be recognized and thanked for helping with a community project.
4. Bodkin announced that October and November are the best months for harvesting wildflower seeds from Monarda, Milkweed, and Coneflower and others. Bodkin will search for some new volunteers to enjoy this task.

5. Bodkin announced the possibility of not having commission meetings in November and December. Plans are to use those months for more planning and revising of brochures and working on science class curriculum.
6. Bodkin will distribute copies of the 2017-2018 Budget for the new commissioners' reference at the September commission meeting.

**AGENDA :**

**ITEM #1: First Major Use of Picnic Grounds for Large Group**

Commissioner Aga Razvi gave the report on feedback from the first use of the Conservancy picnic grounds for a large group, about 120 family and friends. Razvi will create a written report for reference for future requests to use the picnic grounds.

Razvi agreed to help Bodkin and Treasurer Bodie to revise a Village policy for use of the Conservancy.

**Advantages:**

Razvi listed the natural setting, being outdoors, and the privacy of having the whole picnic grounds for just his party. He also mentioned having the parking lot close by and easy location in town for attendees to find the Conservancy. If not too much trash, bags can be taken to dumpster at Park District. Razvi served food without wrappers too help reduce trash.

**Disadvantages:**

Lack of power and toilet facilities. Razvi rented portable toilet and placed in parking lot. He needed electrical power for a microphone and used a car for the power source. He also rented a large tent for shelter. Attendees will need to bring their own canopies, if desired.

**Recommendations:**

1. To have a source of power and toilet facilities.
2. To put signs on each end of the parking lot as to Exit and Entrance in order to keep traffic in one direction.
3. To consider a limit on amount of the deposit and number of guests. Suggested deposit was \$1500 and 150 guests.

## **ITEM #2: Plans for Scarecrow Trail Walk September 30-October 8**

### **A. Exhibitors contacted and confirmed:**

Bodkin stated the Scarecrow event is the only event that the Village hosts for the residents, except for the newly created Arbor Day celebration.

Munao reported giving application forms to: GiGi's Playhouse, Hoffman Estates Animal Hospital, Mathnasium, Pinstripes, Noah's Ark Christian Academy, Dr. Shandley, and PIC Theatre. She stated she would need help with Pinot's Palette, Ryco, and Holy Family Catholic Academy. Razvi volunteered to contact Holy Family, and Bachmeier volunteered to contact Ryco. Munao will continue with soliciting Pinot's Palette.

Bachmeier reported that the Regency decided not to participate this year. She will talk with the social committee to see if any of the residents would like to serve refreshments during the event.

Bodkin reported she had contacted the Park District, the Village Hall Staff, the Police Dept., Autumn Leaves Memory Care, Arboretum Management, Papadakis Photography and Bravo Talent Agency, and the South Barrington Garden Club. She has also sent emails to LL Bean, Stillman Nature Center, and a local Cub Scout Pack. Commissioners suggested contacting Willow Creek Community Church. Bodkin will email Willow Creek and Rose PTO.

Chrystall's assignments are to contact BMO Harris and Ladies Bunco.

It was decided not to contact Toll Brothers due to their lack of enthusiasm in past events.

Bodkin gave Razvi a binder of past articles on the history of the Conservancy since 2010, so he could see past scarecrow exhibits. He will pass binder on to Bachmeier.

### **B. Signs:**

It was agreed that signage was the weakest area of the event in past years. Bodkin announced the large donated 6'x3' sign will be placed on the west side of Bartlett just before turning west on Bridges Drive. Last year, residents complained that their view was blocked by the sign, as they made their exit onto Bartlett Rd. Munao urged the commission to erect more street signs and create some professionally printed signs. Razvi suggested printing out the posters in black and white and distributing at the Park District and elsewhere.

Bodkin will check as to whether the Village can print out color to be taken to the participating businesses and organizations.

Chrystall had been creating festive signs in the past three years and agreed to make the street signs again this year. Bodkin will talk with the Village Administration about how early the signs can be installed. Trustee Kerman stated there also may be a permit required.

**C. Ribbons, Judges, Awards, Refreshments**

Bodkin reported 4 colors of ribbons have already been purchased.

She will ask two adult Barrington area persons to be judges. Munao will ask a Middle School student to represent the young people's opinions on the exhibits.

Bodkin will confer with the Mayor about gift certificates for the awards.

Gifts to the judges will be quality chocolate in mugs as in the past.

**D. Volunteer Help Needed:**

Volunteers will be needed to help exhibitors set up Saturday morning and to serve refreshments during the set up and during the event on Saturday and Sunday. Barrington High School students have been notified of the need through their bulletin board announcing community volunteer service.

Munao asked for help setting up the scarecrow icon on the large front stone Conservancy wall two days before the event.

Also needed is a volunteer to read scarecrow stories along the trail. The Barrington Library declined help in this request. Envisioned is a setting in the forest beside the trail hut with Reader on a large chair, and several stumps for children to sit on, with some pumpkin-head scarecrow kids already in place. The reader will be reading to the scarecrow kids till real kids stop by.

**E. Trails:**

Bodkin will talk with Bob Palmer about expense for Ron DiMonte to lay down new layer of mulch on the trails, as some areas have created ruts from rain erosion. Di Monte will also be asked to spray areas in need. Jim Bodkin will mow 20 scarecrow sites and create signs with names of the exhibitors and titles of scarecrow scene for each site.

## **OLD BUSINESS: Preparation for the Upcoming Sedge Meadow Plantings**

Dustin Wire reports he is available for 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday September 10 and September 17 to lead the plug plantings. He has secured the plants for both days from Taylor Creek. Bodkin reported she has obtained about 4 volunteers for each day in addition to the commissioners who participate.

For a strategy to efficient planting, Razvi suggested putting a string up with markers at 1' intervals for workers' reference. Wire plans to spray the field several days before the planting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Razvi suggested planting Lupines on the difficult slope of the mound. He will help with securing plants and planting.

Wire asked if the controlled burn was still scheduled for next spring. Bodkin confirmed the spring plans and that the expense will need to be brought before the board for approval. The expense was budgeted for 2017 but was not used in that year. Wire stated the EPA permit should be good through April 2018.

Wire also agreed to cut down cattails in front of the observation platform before the Scarecrow event for viewing by the increased numbers of visitors at that time.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Munao, seconded by Razvi. No opposition voiced, motion passed and meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bodkin

Chair, South Barrington Conservancy Commission

