

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CONSERVANCY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Bodkin at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

- Commissioners present:
Diane Bodkin, Deb Bachmeier, Corinne Chrystall, Nancy Munao, Aga Razvi
- Guest: Dustin Wire

APPROVAL OF JUNE 2018 MINUTES: Motion made by Commissioner Munao, seconded by Commissioner Razvi. Motion approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Conservancy did not receive the 2018 Grant for the Sedge Meadow Plots from Openlands Com Ed.
2. Dustin mowed the cattails and sprayed the Showcase understory.
3. *South Barrington Life* magazine featured an article by Bodkin on the three Blue birds in the Conservancy.
4. There are 4 Bluebird eggs and 5 Bluebirds ready to fledge in the Conservancy
5. Photos of the Summer Science Class were sent to Dr. Becky Gill at District 220 and to Ron Bergquist. Thank you note was received from Dr. Gill.
6. Commissioner Razvi announced he accepted an invitation from Mayor McCombie to serve as a member of the newly formed Environmental Committee. The Village has approved funding for an Americorps student intern, whose duties could include helping develop an overall Conservancy plan. Razvi will report on the committee's activities at the August commission meeting.
7. Commissioners were thanked for picking up trash on the grounds the last three weeks, one Commissioner being responsible for each week. They all agreed not to continue assigned weeks but to just pick up trash when they walk through regularly.

AGENDA :

I. SCARECROW EVENT PLANNING (September 22-30)

This year's scarecrow entries assignments were discussed and history was given on some of the scarecrow scenes. Bodkin will try to give the commissioners photos of the past scenes to use in their talks with potential entries this year.

Munao reported that Gigi's Playhouse has agreed to have a scarecrow. Chrystall also reports that Ladies Bunco agreed to participate again this year. Commissioners will report on the final entry results at the August 16 Commission Meeting.

All commissioners agreed that the weakest area of the event last year was the publicity and signs. Bodkin stated there is about \$400 for signs this year. A large 3'x 6' sign is needed to catch passers by on Bartlett Rd. Commissioners also agreed on the need for many signs at the ends of the village streets.

Possible suggestions for publicity include:

Barrington 365 a possible Facebook page; Nextdoor Neighbor, an email solely in the South Barrington area; the Digital Backpack for the schools, and the updated new Village website that should be ready by the end of September.

Bodkin will check with the Mayor about inviting the school children from Sunny Hill and from Countryside, schools that share common border with South Barrington.

Commissioner Razvi reminded commissioners that residents could donate up to \$250 to village activities and itemize for tax deductions without having to show receipt. He urged commissioners when talking with potential exhibitors to suggest their donating to signage if they feel they cannot release employees to help create a scarecrow. There is also a space for a donor board at the beginning of the trail.

II. RESTORATION MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Chair Bodkin lamented the situation on the natural trails in the Conservancy as being too laden with weeds beyond what the commissioners and a few volunteers could take care of. She stated the current condition in the Conservancy has gone beyond "our control." Commissioner Razvi stated, "If we want people to use the Conservancy, we need more funding. It is physically impossible to win the fight with nature. We will need to tie into professional staff for help."

It was recommended that the Chair discuss the issue with the Mayor and the Administration and request more funding for Ron DiMonte to mow the main trails wider and to add spraying herbicide on the base of the mound regularly like he does on the tree rings. He will also need to spray and widen the trail used for the Scarecrow Event. In the past, the village has been proud of the wide inviting path for the attendees to enjoy the prairie. At present the trail has narrowed with overhanging grasses. It was suggested that instead of mowing into the grasses at grass level, instead to cut a 2-3' width about a foot high, saving the prairie plants but giving a feeling of space on the trail.

Bodkin expressed enthusiasm at the possibility of continuing progress on the Showcase Garden. She reported that Dustin Wire had sprayed the buckthorn and other invasives and mowed the cattails. She proposed raking the small cut branches to clear the area for eventual planting and rake the broken twigs and branches into a berm between the Showcase garden and the cattails.

Wire recommended certain sedges for woodlands. Bodkin stated these plants could be paid for from the Garden Club's donation for plants in the Showcase Garden and the Mound. Bodkin stated she intends to have a workday Saturday, July 25 early in the morning to rake the area. She will send an email to the scout master of Troop 10 to see if there are any scouts who need conservation hours. Wire stated he would not be available that day but could go over the area with Bodkin this coming Tuesday evening to create an overall plan involving cutting down invasives and applying herbicide.

Regarding the mound, Commissioner Chrystall announced her landscapers will be working on weeding the mound this coming week. They plan to weed the base of the boulders and then have Ron DiMonte be responsible for maintaining the base.

The Arboretum path was discussed. Chrystall and Bachmeier agreed the sumac branches encroaching on the path need to be pruned. Chrystall reports the gardens themselves are not overrun with weeds and look fairly nice. Bodkin and Bachmeier will plan to prune the branches this coming Monday morning. Bodkin will also email one of the Regency residents who has shown an interest in this weed removal in the past.

Regarding the Butterfly Garden, Dustin Wire reported he sprayed the thistle but that the whole area needs to be mowed down now. Bodkin offered her husband and the newly donated heavy mower to re-create a path. Wire stated a 10' wide path should be good to mow without harming the mower.

Regarding the transplanting of the milkweed plants last year from the Pollinator Garden paths, Bodkin reported the transplants did not take. She also reported that the grant for transplanting more milkweed this year was not approved. She agreed it seems the best method to expand the milkweed population is milkweed plugs or scratching in the seeds in the fall.

Wire agreed the initial plot of the Sedge Meadow is doing well. He sprayed the airy invasives and has them under control. He states it will take two years for the plots #2 and #3 to look as well as plot #1. He reported that the recent rains have created a gully in the meadow. The focus may be getting the current plots under control before plantin new areas to complete the total meadow. This issue will be tabled for the August commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Razvi, seconded by Commissioner Munao.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Next meeting will be August 16, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson

Last Year's Entries Theme: "It's About Time!"

Rose Elementary	Once Upon a Time
Hoffman Estates Animal Hospital	Suppertime
Stillman Nature Center	Learn from the OwlMan
Barrington Ladies Bunco	Time to Sing Along
South Barrington Garden Club	It's About Thyme!
Noah's Ark Academy	Back to the Future
L L Bean	Trash Talk
GiGi's Playhouse	Look What We've Become!
Ryco Landscaping	It's About Time the Cubs Won
Autumn Leaves Memory Care	Time to Remember
South Barrington Park District	No Time to Be a Couch Potato
South Barrington Village Hall	Halftime
Arboretum Management	Time to Visit Santa and Ice Skate

Declines:

Mathnasium
Papadakis Photography
Bravo Talent
Dr. Shandley, DDS

South Barrington Police Dept.
Holy Family Academy
Pinstripes
Willow Creek Community Church Care Center - Cheryl Rost, Barb Dewaard
BMO Harris
Mooney Lyons, Nadine Scheider
Denise D'Amico ReMax
College and Nannies and Tutors

Nancy to contact:

Gigi's Playhouse
Rose Elementary PTO
Grove Elementary
Mathnasium
Dr. Shandley
Barrington Middle School

Aga to contact:

BMO Harris	847-765-1350	?
Ryco Landscaping	815-459-7926	Shannon O'Neill
Papadakis Photography	847-428-4401	George Papadakis (participated 2 years ago,
Bravo Talent	847-428-4401	Lauren, Deb not last year)
Cotswold Manor HOA		
Other HOA's		

Diane to contact:

SB Garden Club
Autumn Leaves
South Barrington Park District
South Barrington Village Hall Staff
South Barrington Police Dept.
College Tutors

Deb to contact:

Willow Creek Care Center Barb Dewaard bdewaard@willowcreek.org

Pinstripes

Denise D'Amico denisedamico@remax.net

The Regency/Woods

Mooney Lyons See separate email. Nancy Schneider

Corinne to contact:

Barrington Ladies Bunco

South Barrington Lakes HOA

Barrington Pools (?)

Any others you can think of.....

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