

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
CONSERVANCY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER by Commissioner Razvi at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

- Commissioners present:
Deb Bachmeier, Corinne Chrystall, Aga Razvi
Guest: Tom Cordell, Nancy Munao

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2018 MINUTES: Motion made by Commissioner Bachmeier, seconded by Commissioner Chrystall. Motion approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tom Cordell announced that several oak trees were recently cut down by beavers. Three beavers were trapped.

Tom Cordell has been in contact with Barrington High School Environmental Science teachers about the possibility of using the Conservancy as a teaching tool/field trip this spring. Sixty to ninety seniors may participate in these field trips.

AGENDA :

A. BUDGET:

A copy of the "Proposed Budget" was distributed to commissioners. The proposed budget was developed together with the Mayor, Village Staff, Commission Chair Bodkin, and Aga Razvi. Razvi reviewed projected expenses for the current budget year and compared the figures to funds requested in the proposed budget. The proposed budget included the following changes compared to the current year budget:

- An increase in the maintenance expenses by \$ 775, primarily for the control of invasive species.
- An increase in the capital projects expenses by \$ 4,900. Most of this increase was for the replacement of trees felled by beavers. Three new capital projects were

proposed in the budget: a showcase garden, a boxwood maze, and replacement of felled trees.

- Conservancy Committee expenses were reduced by \$ 400 compared to the previous year's budgeted amount.

After some discussion, commissioner Bachmeier moved to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Commissioner Chrystall. Motion approved.

B. SHOWCASE GARDEN TIMELINE

Steps for establishing the Showcase Garden were discussed. Several options were discussed for developing a planting plan using a landscape designer, University of Illinois Extension Horticulturists, senior students from Barrington High School. Aga Razvi had attempted to contact the Extension Horticulturist at Cook County for help with designing the Showcase Garden. He did not have a response at the time of this meeting. Planning must be completed as soon as possible so that plants can be ordered in advance of planting.

The proposed area will need at least one more herbicide application before planting. The application is dependent on weather conditions; therefore, a set date cannot be established. At present we are targeting April 15 for herbicide application to be completed, with planting scheduled for 3-4 weeks after herbicide application. Planting dates will be dependent on weather conditions and availability of volunteers. It was suggested that some students from the senior class may also be able to help. Tom Cordell agreed to coordinate the availability of student volunteers. Planting time is targeted for May 18.

A watering plan was discussed. Commissioners expressed concern over the ability to get water to the Showcase Garden in case it does not rain for extended periods.

Commissioners offered to provide garden hoses to move the water from the source to the Showcase Garden. Water pressure still remains an obstacle to automation of the watering system. As in the past we must seek volunteers to be available as needed for hand-watering.

C. BOXWOOD MAZE-EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

A maze plan is to be developed by Phil Silbert (an Eagle Scout candidate). Assistance of a thousand dollars has been budgeted for this project, most of the money to be used for equipment rental.

D. COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Razvi asked Commissioners for their ideas for recruiting two additional Commissioners. Suggestions were to advertise in the Village's Weekly Update and Mayor's Newsletter and to contact local conservation clubs and garden clubs to seek out volunteers from among Village residents.

E. ARBOR DAY/EARTH DAY

F. OTHER – THREE YEAR PLAN/USE OF CONSERVANCY

Razvi distributed the Conservancy Plan created in 2013. He suggested that the Commission develop a Vision/Mission Statement for the Conservancy and establish clear goals and objectives to be accomplished within this Vision. It was suggested to seek outside ideas by establishing a separate adhoc committee made up of conservancy commissioners, members from local conservation groups, users of the conservancy such as the school system staff and students, and Village residents.

Discussion focused on:

- Increasing utilization of the conservancy.
- Increasing student participation by creating an outdoor laboratory for learning.
- Promoting interactive learning by creating various observation stations, setting up proper signage, developing coded apps at various stations so that students can absorb more detail information of that particular subject.
- Promote Pokemon character greeting at scarecrow events
- Encouraging residents to donate a tree or bench in memory of a loved one
- Encouraging mountain bike clubs to utilize the conservancy paths

Motion was made by Bachmeier, seconded by Chrystall to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting will be February 21, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Aga Rasvi, Commissioner