

Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of August 15, 2019

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held in the Village Hall Board Room on Thursday, August 15, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Trustee Eric Fonstad (Chair), Judy Shirley, Ramsey Radakovich, & Karen Grube

Absent: Louise Petering

Ex Officio: John Gall, Village Forester

The meeting notice was mailed to the *North Shore Now* and to all others as required by the State open meeting laws, and posted on the Village website and bulletin boards.

Trustee Fonstad called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Also in attendance were Mary and Larry Sussman, 7209 Lombardy Road, Karen and Charley Kasik, 7205 Lombardy Road, and Douglas Fox, 7131 Lombardy Road. Brian J. Reiels, Nicolet/Fox Point Bayside Facilities Manager, and, joining the meeting at about 5:00 p.m., Karen Grimm Nilsen, Stormonth School Principal, were present representing the Stormonth School.

Persons Desiring to be Heard: None

Without objection, agenda item 4. a. was taken out of order.

4. a. Discussion/Brainstorming Funding Opportunities for Replanting at Stormonth School

Mr. Reiels reported on the recent removal of about 80 ash trees on the grounds of Stormonth School due to the Emerald Ash Borer ("EAB") infestation. He reviewed the limited funds available to the school for the removal of these trees, the need to remove approximately 50 additional trees at the school, the importance of establishing a replanting program that will result in a healthy mix of tree species, and the need to explore possible funding sources for this work.

Mr. Fonstad explained that the Village is not able to provide funds to the school since the Village and the school district are separate taxing authorities. However, the Tree Commission and the Village Forester are willing to assist the school district by sharing information about the Village's EAB program and suggesting possible funding opportunities.

Beginning about eight years ago, the Village committed to spend approximately \$1.25 million to address EAB infestation on Village property, including money to treat and remove ash trees and purchase and plant replacement trees. The program also included educating the public about EAB. More recently, the Village contracted for the removal of a large number of ash trees in the Indian Creek woods and purchased 230 replacement trees that will be planted at the Indian Creek woods this fall.

Mr. Fonstad said that the Village Forester is only able to give the school district a very limited amount of his time since the Forester is very much in demand by Village staff and residents.

Mr. Reiels noted that the school is looking for help with fundraising ideas. The school has equipment it can use to plant replacement trees and will be contacting the Parent Teacher Organization for assistance with fundraising. The school will also be contacting the Fox Point Garden Club for help.

With respect to fundraising, Forester Gall noted that the American Transmission Company offers grants for community tree planting programs. If the school wished to pursue this source of funds, the Village would have to write the grant request. Forester Gall said that he was willing to submit a grant proposal

to the American Transmission Company on behalf of the school. The application would provide that any funds awarded would be for the benefit of the school district.

Mr. Radakovich described the Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Grant program which could be a source of funds to the school. He explained that this program is a fifty percent match program that requires applicants to fully fund tree planting work and then apply for a fifty percent grant for the completed work. He noted there are generally many communities competing for the limited funds available through this program.

Mr. Radakovich recommended that the school conduct a tree inventory and assessment as a first step in planning its tree replacement program. He stressed that the school should develop a multi-year program to replace trees lost to EAB.

Mr. Reiels noted that the school also needs to determine its long term land use plans before planting replacement trees.

Other ideas discussed included investigating the "Trees for Threes" program sponsored by the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team, contacting other sports teams and businesses about sponsoring tree replacements, developing "Sponsor-a-Tree" programs through parents and others, and providing information at community events.

Ms. Shirley recommended that the school purchase replacement trees from local wholesale nurseries and that a priority be placed on addressing those areas of the school's property that are closest to neighboring residences.

The Sussmans, the Kasiks, Mr. Fox, and the representatives of the school district left the meeting at about 5:20 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the March 28, 2019, meeting were approved (with Mr. Radakovich abstaining).

3. Old Business.

a. Update on Indian Creek Woods Project

Forester Gall reported that the 230 replacement trees for the Indian Creek woods are scheduled to be planted on two successive Saturday mornings this fall (October 5 and October 12 between 8:00 a.m. and noon). Nineteen people had volunteered to help with the replanting as of the date of the meeting. More volunteers are being recruited. Volunteers are being asked to bring a shovel for digging holes and a five gallon bucket for watering the trees. Ms. Shirley estimates that about 600 yards of fencing and 460 stakes will be needed to protect the newly planted trees from rabbits and deer. Forester Gall will arrange the supply of the netting and stakes. Ms. Grube and Ms. Shirley are submitting an article for the *Fox Point Now* magazine in order to generate awareness of the project.

Forester Gall reported that Marek Landscaping will be treating boxelder, ash and buckthorn sprouts that have grown in the Indian Creek woods over the summer.

b. Update on EAB on Private Property Including Yard Waste Policy

Forester Gall reported that some Village residents are resisting efforts to remove dead and diseased ash trees on their properties.

The Village is also having difficulty finding private contractors who are willing to remove piles of ash tree debris left along Village streets.

c. Review of Arbor Day Program at Maple Dale School

The members of the Commission reported that the Arbor Day program at Maple Dale School was very successful. The staff and students at the school are to be congratulated for putting together a well designed and informative program.

4. New Business

a. Discussion/Brainstorming Funding Opportunities for Replanting at Stormonth School

See above.

b. Forester's Activities Update

Forester Gall reported that the past winter was very hard on trees. Four of the five tulip trees planted by the Village last year did not survive the winter. The supplier has provided the Village with a credit for these trees and the homeowners in the area of the trees have been advised that the trees will be replaced.

Forester Gall said that he is being overwhelmed with questions from homeowners about ash trees and EAB. Residents are complaining about died and dying ash trees on neighboring properties. The Village is trying to avoid becoming involved in disputes between neighbors about trees on private property.

A new inventory of ash trees in the Village has been completed. There are currently 1,130 ash trees on public property in the Village, 830 of which are being treated. That leaves 300 that still need to be removed.

Fox Point will be hosting a meeting of the Southeast Wisconsin Municipal Foresters Working Group on August 29, 2019.

c. Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Topics

The next meeting date is Thursday, December 12, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

5. Any other matters that may come before the Tree Commission (informational only – no action taken).

There were no additional matters brought before the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.