

Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of March 29, 2018

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held in the Village Hall Conference Room on Thursday, March 29, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Trustee Eric Fonstad (Chair), Karen Grube, Judy Shirley, Louise Petering & Ramsey Radaicavich

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 was Samuel Hamilton, 120 West Cherokee Circle. Mr. Hamilton stated that he is interested in the future of the Indian Creek woods. No persons indicated that they wished to address the Commission.

2. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the December 14, 2017 meeting were approved.

3. Old Business

a. Status of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Infestation in the Village

Forester Gall reported that he has not received reports from residents about increased woodpecker activity. He said that he would expect to get such reports if EAB infestation in the village is becoming more evident. He noted that EAB infestation to the North of the village, particularly throughout Ozaukee County and at the Schlitz Audubon Center, is widespread and that this will put more pressure on village ash trees.

Forester Gall stated that it is his opinion that the village is not seeing as rapid an advance of EAB as in areas to the North because the village and other north shore communities have been more aggressive in treating trees to prevent EAB. He reported that 170 public ash trees were removed over the winter, 450 trees are scheduled to be treated over the summer with an additional 450 trees receiving treatment in 2019, and that 500 more trees need to be removed.

In response to questions from the Committee, Forester Gall said that long term treatment recommendations for EAB are still being developed as more information is obtained about the course of EAB infestations in other parts of the country. He also said that the goal is to have ash trees make up about 10% of the tree canopy on public lands in the village. At the start of the EAB program, ash trees made up 27% of the canopy on public lands and, after the removal of the remaining ash trees identified for removal, the 10% goal will be met.

b. Arbor Day Planning

Ms. Grube reported that Arbor Day will be observed on April 27, 2018 at Stormonth School beginning at 3:00 p.m. The Committee thanked the Garden Club for donating a Hackberry tree for planting on Arbor Day.

c. Indian Creek Woods - Ash Removal and Replanting

Forester Gall reported that he, Bob Miller of M&M Tree Service, Judy Shirley and Mike Krueger of the village DPW staff walked the Indian Creek Woods on April 27, 2018 to assess the condition of the ash trees and develop recommendations for addressing the EAB infestation of these trees.

He noted that:

- (i) there are social trails in the Indian Creek Woods in addition to trails that Eagle Scouts have groomed with wood chips;
- (ii) the Indian Creek Woods is about two acres in size and it appears that people use all parts of the woods;
- (iii) almost all the trees are ash trees, there is very little diversity, and only a few large, non-ash trees would be suitable for saving;
- (iv) all of the ash trees should be removed and replaced (treatment is not an option);
- (v) a variety of trees should be used for replanting although the trees can be smaller stock when planted than the village typically uses for replanting; and
- (vi) Mr. Miller brought a production foreman to the woods to prepare an estimate of the cost to remove the ash trees (they recommend that the wood chips be brought to the DPW yard for use by the village and residents, that the logs be staged near the Indian Creek woods, that all the ash trees be removed during the winter, that 15-20 days be allocated for the work, and that the cost for removal of the ash trees should be estimated at about \$60,000).

The members of the Commission discussed this information. It was noted that public safety, aesthetics, and cost concerns support removing the Indian Creek Woods ash trees. It was also noted that this is the only woodlot of ash trees on village property and that additional money would be needed to plant replacement trees. The members of the Committee asked Forester Gall to pursue any grants that may be available to help fund this effort.

The Committee thanked Mr. Miller and M&M Tree Service for their assistance.

d. Stormonth Response to EAB

Forester Gall reported that he is still trying to schedule a meeting with Stormonth to talk about how the school is planning to address the many ash trees on their property. He noted that this is the only other large stand on ash trees on public property in the village.

3. New Business

a. Review of Tree Canopy Analysis Performed by DNR

Forester Gall distributed copies of the Tree Canopy Report for the village that was prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The report shows that 64% of the land in the village is covered with trees and shrubs, compared to about 30% statewide. He noted that Fox Point, Bayside and River Hills have the highest percentage of trees cover in Milwaukee County. The members of the Committee reviewed this information and discussed whether the village should set a tree canopy target. It was noted that the high number of trees in the village add greatly to the character and desirability of the village.

b. Forester's Activities Report

Forester Gall reported that 129 trees are scheduled to be planted by the village this year and that an application for a Great Lakes grant in 2018 has been submitted. The village is asking for a \$9,000 grant to plant additional trees. Forester Gall said that he did not get a response from either Stormouth or Mapledale schools about the information he sent to them on the Milwaukee Bucks/American Transmission Corporation "Threes for Trees" program. He also noted that there will be a bird walk at Doctors Park at 8 a.m. on May 5th for International Bird Day and that the village has received official notification that it continues to qualify as a Tree City.

Forester Gall reported that 149 stumps will be removed by the village this spring, plaques will be added to benches and tables built from reclaimed ash lumber, and that he will again participate in the Fox Point Community Day scheduled for June 9th.

c. Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Topics

The next meeting date is Thursday, August 23, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.

Members of the Committee requested that the following items be placed on the agenda for the next meeting:

- (i) Consideration of Minimum Tree Canopy Target
- (ii) DNR Urban Forestry Grant

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

No other matters were raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.