

# Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of March 30, 2017

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held in the Village Hall Conference Room on Thursday, March 30, 2017, at 4:00 p.m.

## 1. Roll Call

**Present:** Trustee Eric Fonstad (Chair), Judy Shirley, Karen Grube & 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.

## 2. Approval of Minutes.

After making a correction, the minutes of the December 8, 2016 meeting were approved.

## 3. Old Business

### a. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Project Status for 2017

Forester Gall noted that soil injection treatment of 176 ash trees that are in the 6" to 12" diameter class will be done in 2017. This is the last year that he plans to use the soil injection method. These 176 trees will begin an every other year trunk injection program beginning in 2018. Another 443 ash trees that were last treated in 2015 will be treated by trunk injection in 2017.

Forester Gall also said that he will be looking into removing more ash trees in 2017.

### b. Addressing Bluff Ash Issues

Mr. Fonstad said that there is no progress to report on this item. He will work with Forester Gall to develop a letter that could be sent to owners of ravine and bluff property advising them of tree removal issues.

### c. Indian Creek Woods - Ash Removal and Replanting

Forester Gall reported that he contacted Mike Wendt who teaches an arborist class at MATC North and asked him whether he would be interested in having his class remove ash trees in the lower part of the Indian Creek Woods as a training exercise. Mr. Wendt indicated that his current class would not be suitable for such an exercise but that he would keep the idea in mind for his fall class.

Ms. Shirley asked whether the village DPW staff would be able to start taking down a few ash trees in the Indian Creek woods and whether there was grant money available to remove ash trees. Forester Gall said that he has talked to the village DPW staff about idea of removing ash trees at Indian Creek. Nothing definite is planned. He also said that grant money is available for replanting trees but not for ash tree removal.

#### **d. Aldo Leopold Benches**

Forrester Gall distributed pictures of one of two Aldo Leopold style benches constructed by Wally of the village DPW staff using reclaimed lumber from ash trees removed from the village as part of the EAB program. The lumber was milled last year at the Community Days using a portable sawmill. The members of the committee discussed possible locations for the benches. Possible locations discussed included in front of village hall and by the kiosk at Indian Creek. The committee members asked whether it would be possible to mark the benches so that residents would know they were built using reclaimed ash lumber.

### **3. New Business**

#### **a. Bay-Lake RPC Tree Planting Grant**

Forester Gall reported that the money from this grant will be used to plant 60 trees this spring. He is also looking into planting 20-30 trees this fall. Some of those plantings would be used to replace trees lost during high winds in early March. He reported that he contacted 14 nurseries looking to purchase for planting stock and received seven bids for 102 trees. It is getting increasingly difficult to find good planting stock.

#### **b. Stormonth and Mapledale Ash Response**

Forester Gall noted that there are large numbers of ash trees on the Stormonth and Mapledale school grounds. He said that he is not aware of any plans at the schools to deal with EAB or the need to remove diseased ash trees. The members of the committee discussed this information and observed that it would be appropriate for Forester Gall to contact the schools and offer to assist them in planning to address EAB issues but that, since the schools are separate taxing entities from the village, village funds (including grant money) should not be used.

#### **c. Garden Club Little Library Project**

Ms. Grube reported that the Garden Club received a donation to be used for village beautification. The Garden Club is proposing to use the donation to create a mulched area with a bench and a Little Library on village property southwest of the intersection of Bell and Lake Drive. The proposal will be presented to the village board at its next meeting.

#### **d. Arbor Day at Stormonth School**

Ms. Grube reported that she will work with Forrester Gall and Susan Westergard of the Garden Club on the Arbor Day tree planting program at Stormonth School. The Arbor Day event will be held at 3:00 p.m. on April 28. The program will be similar to last year's program except there will be no indoor portion of the program this year.

#### **e. 2016 Forestry Activities Report**

Forester Gall presented his activities report for 2016 and highlighted changes from 2015.

#### **f. March 7-8 High Wind Tree Damage**

Forester Gall reported that high winds in early March resulted in the loss of 13 trees and two arborvitae on village property and numerous other trees on private property.

**g. Fox Point Community Day - June 10th**

Forester Gall said that he will be participating in the Fox Point Community Day again this year. He hopes to have one of the Aldo Leopold benches on display.

**h. Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Topics**

The next meeting date is Thursday, September 14, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. A tentative date for the winter meeting was set for December 14, 2017.

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

Forester Gall noted that a pile of wood chips has been placed by the pool that residents are free to take for their landscaping needs. The chips will be available until June 1st.

Ms. Grube said that she will assist DPW staff in identifying and treating invasive plants in the village rain gardens.

Forester Gall reported that he walked the Dunwood redevelopment property with the developer to survey the condition of the trees on the site. He noted that most of the trees are ash trees that will have to be removed. He discussed replanting trees with the developer.

Forester Gall distributed a chart showing the cumulative number of communities in Wisconsin that have detected EAB. The chart shows that, after the first detection of EAB in the state in 2007, the curve raises steeply from 2012 to the present. Currently, about 300 communities in Wisconsin have detected EAB. In 2016 alone there were 98 first community detections of EAB.

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