



# Conservation Committee

## Minutes

**March 1, 2018 7:00 P.M.**

Village Hall Committee Room

3930 N. Murray Avenue, Shorewood, WI 53211

### **1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members present: Chair Joshua Liberatore, Sue Murphy Yerkes, Donna Pollock, Henry Tomaszewicz, Linda Frank, Chase Kelm, Meenal Atre, Roland Schroeder, Caroline Kuebler and Carolyn Morse

Others Present: Trustee Davida Amenta

Not present: Elisabeth Witt

### **2. Approve February 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Tomaszewicz moved to approve the February 1, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Murphy Yerkes. Vote 9 – 0 to approve the minutes.

### **3. Staff Updates**

No staff update.

### **4. Discuss Citizen Concerns**

Ms. Kuebler reported on the development project behind Corner Bakery possibly blocking viewshed of river. A neighbor wonders whether there is a setback ordinance that was accepted for the project. Mr. Liberatore will inquire with staff to see if there was any language in the development agreement that involved exceptions to greenway setback considerations.

### **5. Discuss and Consider Direction with Vacant Student Representative on Conservation Committee**

Mr. Liberatore described the ordinance language that governs the Committee structure and a possible opportunity to replace the voting position held in reserve for the SHS representatives with a new vacancy for an adult resident volunteer. Mr. Liberatore and Mr. Burkhart have tried repeatedly to recruit active SHS participation, but finding a consistent and dedicated participant has been challenging. Mr. Kelm agreed that ideally a student representative would be a great way to involve the schools, but in the absence of a committed individual, the spot could be valuably taken by another adult resident. Ms. Kuebler described a form of participation outside of meeting membership and attendance, more project based and geared toward younger people, that may help involve SHS students. The Committee agreed to table this issue for now, and no motion was taken to reword the Committee ordinance as of yet. Mr. Liberatore encouraged the Committee to find new ways to engage the school/SHS community, even as the role of the SHS representatives gets considered further.

**6. Consider Long-Term Recommendation for Organics Collection Program**

Mr. Liberatore updated the Committee on the revised memorandum that will be presented to the Village Board on March 19. The funds have already been budgeted for a 7-month extension of the organics pilot. There will also be the suggestion that the Village Staff and Trustees begin to think about long-term incorporation of the pilot study/program results into Village services generally. The Conservation Committee will remain a part of the conversation, but at some point the program needs to be onboarded into Village planning and budgeting without Committee prodding. Mr. Kelm would like to see more follow-through on prior suggestions of the Committee with respect to waste reduction, recycling incentives, and other initiatives that were advanced during the waste collection contract process.

**7. Discuss MMSD Rain Garden Workshop Promotion Opportunities**

Ms. Kuebler reported on her efforts to get MMSD to host a Shorewood raingarden workshop on a weekday evening. A date has not yet been determined, and the timing with the spring plant sale/delivery logistics is tight. MMSD has a workshop scheduled for March 17 at the Milorganite facility, which the Committee will help promote. A flyer for the March 17 workshop and the three UEC Native Plant Sales will be available at the March 2 film screening of "Hometown Habitat".

**8. Update on Environmental Film Festival**

Ms. Murphy Yerkes asked for help in getting more people to come to our movies. She explained a format change that would move the formal discussion to after the film as opposed to introducing the film. Bird City and North Shore Wild Ones are both hoping to send members to participate in a post-film talk-back. Looking ahead to April, the Bring Your Bag/Boomerang Bag groups will handle organizing a post-film discussion.

**9. Report from DPW Liaison**

Ms. Frank reported out on her conversations with the DPW Director about the use of styrene in relining the sewer laterals. The citizen concern about prevalent odors in the Village was addressed by encouraging residents to make sure they are flushing their basement drains. Ms. Frank will follow up with DPW about: 1) the prevalent smell out of doors (not inside the home); and 2) why the smell is persistent 3-4 months after the work was complete (and ask how long will it last). Ms. Frank also reported on the results of her conservation about salt-brine applications and plowing operations in the Village and whether alternatives/reductions have been considered. The amount of salt being applied is actively measured. Tr. Amenta said that data are available on amounts used, stored, and purchased. Mr. Kelm suggested presenting DPW with the data from Milwaukee's experience cutting the salt application by 4/5 (80 percent) with no reduction in effectiveness. Mr. Frank plans to follow up on these two issues soon.

**10. Consider Conservation Fair / Fish and Feather Festival Collaboration**

Mr. Liberatore reminded the committee of the suggestion to collaborate with Fish and Feather for the annual conservation fair, with the 2018 change that the recycling collection could profitably take place at the DPW yard on a collection Saturday. The date has yet to be selected, but DPW and Fish and Feather coordinator seem excited about the

opportunity to combine again with the location change relieving the parking situation at Hubbard Park. Mr. Tomasiewicz reported on his meeting with the Parks Commission about joining forces for an Adopt-a-River campaign, with the idea to possibly align with a Fish and Feather date so that a cleanup event could be planned for the morning of the Festival. Mr. Kelm agreed that bundling activities on one day would help draw more people and attention. The Committee favored the idea, and Mr. Liberatore suggested that Parks Commission volunteers could help staff the event, if the Conservation Committee plans it and works out the scheduling details.

#### **11. Upcoming Events, Member Topics & Suggestions**

Mr. Tomasiewicz has planned an Arbor Day tree planting for April 27. He will work with fourth-graders from Lake Bluff to plant trees in Estabrook Park, through a white spruce application from the DNR. Some 125 fourth-graders will plant 250 trees at 1 p.m. Mr. Schroeder will again work to plan a Garlic Weedout for the Shorewood Nature Preserve on a date to be determined in May. He will update the committee at the April 5 meeting and will be looking for Committee members to help get more volunteers to do the work. Mr. Schroeder also mentioned a movie called “Saving Snow” for possible consideration in future film screenings.

#### **12. Adjournment**

Ms. Morse moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Tomasiewicz. Vote 11–0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tyler Burkart  
Assistant Village Manager