



Conservation Committee

Minutes

April 5, 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 Tomasiewicz, Chase Kelm, Meenal Atre, Elisabeth Witt, Roland Schroeder, Linda Frank, and Caroline Kuebler

Others Present: Trustee Davida Amenta

Not present: Carolyn Morse

2. Approve March 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kelm moved to approve the March 1, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pollock. Vote 9 – 0 to approve the minutes.

3. Staff Updates

No staff update.

4. Discuss Citizen Concerns

None raised.

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

The Committee discussed the ordinance language governing membership structure. The recommendation was to recruit through posting an advertisement in SHS “Ripples”. Another suggestion was to look at Eagle/Girl Scouts at the SHS to see if service could be linked to Committee involvement. Ms. Witt offered to reach out to “Ripples” staff to see how a recruitment ad could be posted. Mr. Liberatore will work with Ms. Witt and Mr. Burkart to draft a proposal to be sent to “Ripples” and arrange any payment. The decision to change the Committee ordinance was tabled for now pending a new recruitment effort.

6. Discuss Conservation Committee Annual Report to Village Board

Mr. Liberatore explained the purpose of the annual report process, challenging the Committee to name 2017 accomplishments and brainstorm 2018 program priorities, part of the Village Manager’s effort to streamline and make coherent Village programming and committee activities and identify areas of urgency. The Committee brainstormed 11 accomplishments from 2017. Ms. Kuebler suggested keeping a running list going for 2018 so that projects would not be missed in future reports. Several ideas were listed for Committee priorities in 2018. Ms. Frank reported out on a City of Milwaukee initiative to build in solar installations. Mr. Liberatore clarified that 2018 proposals should be fairly specific and concrete, using the expansion of the organics program as an example.

7. Discuss Compost Sale on April 21

Mr. Liberatore briefly described the sale to take place at Lake Bluff Elementary Community Garden on Earth Day weekend, partly as a thank you celebration to mark the first year of the organics program, partly to promote the full-circle return of compost the Village program has helped to create. One volunteer was requested to help be a greeter at the event (Ms. Atre offering to help), as Mr. Liberatore will be assisting the vendor with loading and logistics. This will be another opportunity to recruit potential subscribers and add to the waiting list for future program expansion. Event is scheduled from 10 a.m. – noon.

8. Discuss Garlic Mustard Weed Out on May 12

Mr. Schroeder explained the purpose and scope of the annual event in the Shorewood Nature Preserve. He will lead the volunteers in identifying and pulling invasive garlic mustard. Mr. Liberatore will be in charge of loading bags and hauling to the top of the hill. Help was requested in recruiting a diverse age group for this event, with some offering to reach out to Girl/Boy Scout troops for possible service involvement. Event is scheduled from 9 a.m. – noon.

9. Report on Creating Renewable Energy Opportunities in Neighborhood Loan Improvement Program

Mr. Kelm reported out on his meeting with the Planning Director Bart Griepentrog and Mr. Burkart concerning a Committee exploration to apply part of the existing grant program to include energy efficiency and solar installation for additional financial assistance among interested residents. Ms. Pipek also asked whether abatement programs (radon, asbestos, lead, buried fuel tanks) could be integrated into existing grant programs. The expansion of this existing program will be among the 2018 new initiatives list.

10. Discuss Pesticide Education and Healthy Lawn Initiative

Tabled until May meeting.

11. Update on Bring Your Bag Shorewood

Ms. Atre reported on the year-end numbers of the Boomerang Bag effort, having distributed over 1,000 bags, of which 940 were made by volunteers and the balance comprising donated bags. This project aided in avoiding the use of 159,000 single-use bags (assumption is that a reusable bag saves on average 170 plastic bags from disposal). The social media campaign continues to grow. A positive indicator is that bags are starting to be returned with more regularly. A survey has been launched on Facebook to determine the effectiveness of BYBS locations. The library has been proposed as another possible location for boomerang bags. \$900 in revenue from selling bags is being explored for investing back into the project. Since program adoption, 610 communities worldwide have been formed. The movement is growing, and the Committee will continue its material and promotional support.

12. Upcoming Events, Member Topics & Suggestions

Mr. Tomasiewicz is growing milkweed and Mexican sunflowers and offered some to anyone who wants some to plant. He will bring seedlings to the May meeting. Tr.

Conservation Committee
April 5, 2018 Minutes

Amenta suggested following the Culver's model for local businesses in improving plastic/trash separation at restaurants.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Tomaszewicz moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Murphy-Yerkes. Vote 10 – 0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tyler Burkart
Assistant Village Manager