



# Conservation Committee

## Minutes

### June 2, 2022 7:00 PM

#### 1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

Members present: Joshua Liberatore, Henry Tomasiewicz, Erin Povak, Joey Sprague, Maggie Pipek, Charles Hagner, Matt McGovern.

Others present: Assistant Village Manager Chris Anderson.

Not present: Linda Frank, Elisabeth Witt, Natalia Stein, Caroline Kuebler, Meenal Atre

#### 2. Consider Approval of May 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Tomasiewicz made a friendly correction to the May 5 minutes indicating both he and Mr. Liberatore made contacts to Pollinator Palooza participating organizations. Mr. Liberatore asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes, Motion made by Mr. Liberatore, seconded by Mr. Tomasiewicz and passed 7-0.

#### 3. Discuss Citizen Concerns

Mr. Liberatore discussed the structure and purpose of the citizen concerns item for new member Ms. Joey Sprague. Mr. McGovern started discussion on upcoming grant funding for electric school buses from the EPA which will start with lower income districts and is something to monitor in the future. Mr. Liberatore will ask if there is a fleet owned by the Shorewood school district. The gas-powered leaf blower discussion is tabled for the moment. This was an item from Trustee Stokebrand, but the members of the community could not attend tonight's meeting, perhaps this discussion will come back in July.

#### 4. Staff Liaison Updates

Assistant Village Manager attended the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC) meeting last week- joined as observing member.

#### 5. Update on student liaison recruitment process

Mr. Liberatore provided an update on the high school liaison member recruitment since Ms. Peaslee will be graduating this month. Mr. Liberatore has asked Ms. Peaslee if she had a recommendation but most of her friends will also be graduating. Principal has been contacted for another recommendation. Ms. Pipek mentioned recruiting a member of the Intermediate school (eighth grader) so they could sustain a longer tenure. Mr. Tomasiewicz suggested that a graduating senior brings on a successor to shadow in their final year to help with the transition. Mr. Liberatore asked the committee if they think of another student that could fill this role, to contact him.

#### 6. Update from liaisons assigned to Village zoning improvements working group on recent discussions

Ms. Pipek and Mr. Hagner provided an update on the Commercial Zoning update which is a form-based code to make future development more predictable and aligned with

community expectations. To date, there is no work in the group that would warrant being added to the Conservation Committee agenda quite yet. Ms. Pipek mentioned the format of the exchange has not felt like a working group since the communication is not two way. It feels like a first pass of the presentation to help refine what recommendations will be presented moving forward. Mr. Hagner mentioned the book will be a comprehensive document that all members will review for feedback. Ms. Sprague would like to see the list of recommendations that the Conservation Committee has put together. The next public meeting is June 16 which had to be rescheduled from May 25. Mr. Liberatore asked for another update from the group in August or September.

**7. Provide feedback on recent committee events and initiatives**

Film screening and Pollinator Palooza events were successful. The consensus from Mr. Liberatore and Ms. Klueber was that having the film screening hosted by the school was an ideal set up. The money was very well spent since the set up did not have to happen at Village Center. Mr. Liberatore asked for feedback or other comments from the committee. Ms. Sprague mentioned Friday night may be a difficult time for folks to make work. However, the timing of hosting this event just after Earth Day was a benefit since the community was mindful of the content. Mr. Liberatore asked the committee to be thinking of other film ideas that are recent and about 90 minutes in length. Pollinator Palooza had consistent traffic throughout the three hours. Some improvements could be where kids do craft projects. Reorganization of the activities would work well and adding other organizations would be a great benefit. The painting of the bird houses was popular and a suggestion to collect old t-shirts for donation to act as smocks would be a good idea. Mr. Liberatore mentioned formalizing some things like requesting funding from the volunteer committee budget to buy the materials and mobilizing volunteers to help build them. The location was also a good spot since there is a playground, plenty of parking, and picnic tables are existing as well. More signage may be needed for future events (perhaps yard signs with uniform language that can be reused for future events). A suggestion to team up with the Farmer's Market was suggested and there are pros and cons to this. The benefit of the current structure is that folks come to this event because they self-identified as interested in the Conservation Committee's activities and not just happening upon it. Mr. Liberatore also shared there is a form to collect feedback from committee members. Another positive of the Pollinator Palooza event was the plant giveaway which was beneficial. The pollinator garden was a bit out of the way, so relocation was a potential improvement.

**8. Discuss ideas for new initiatives and projects for summer work groups**

Mr. Liberatore opened the discussion for ideas for new initiatives. No Mow May is on the list and has momentum, but a point person is needed (if interested, let Mr. Liberatore know). Mr. Joe Shaffer is ready to get it going and would like to partner with the committee. Mr. McGovern asked about the Village's hybrid or electric vehicle fleet replacement and AVM Anderson took this as a follow up item. Baskets at Atwater Beach to pick up garbage. Bird strike at Atwater school. Sustainability themed book group-quarterly book discussion. Ms. Sprague brought up a conversation with a neighbor that has native plants and the other neighbor likes a clean green yard. Are there code

restrictions that inform this? Mr. Liberatore will send language in the ordinance that outlines what is allowable- a plan should be submitted to the Village.

**9. Subcommittee Reports**

No reports.

**10. Upcoming Events, Member Topics & Suggestions**

No reports.

**11. Adjournment**

Raffle tickets were drawn from the Pollinator Palooza event and the winners are: 45, 10, 30, and 85. Mr. Tomasiewicz moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Povak and the vote was 7-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chris Anderson  
Assistant Village Manager