



Conservation Committee

Minutes

June 3, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Via teleconference

1. Call to order

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

Members present: Joshua Liberatore, Henry Tomaszewicz, Donna Pollock, Bella Peaslee, Chuck Hagner, Elisabeth Witt, Maggie Pipek, Caroline Kuebler, Meenal Atre

Others Present: Assistant Village Manager Tyler Burkart

Not present: Linda Frank, Kendra Carey, Pat Wilson, and Matt McGovern

2. Approve May 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Tomaszewicz recommended adding the word film in front of screening for item 5.

Mr. Tomaszewicz moved to approve the May 6, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pollock. Vote 9-0 to approve the minutes.

3. Discuss Citizen Concerns

No report.

4. Staff Liaison Updates

In following up with Ms. Witt's question about the recycling of broth containers, Mr. Burkart reports that they are not acceptable through our recycling. Mr. Burkart also reported that the dog waste bag issue would be discussed at the Village Board level again on June 7.

5. Consider summer schedule and upcoming meetings

Mr. Liberatore asked if the Committee wanted to take off any months during the summer. Traditionally July and August the Committee would take off in the past. Subcommittees would still meet to make progress on their initiatives. Mr. Burkart mentioned all committees and boards will begin meeting in person in September. Conservation Committee meetings will be moved to Village Center and go from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Subcommittees can meet prior to the start to the meeting to conduct business, if needed.

6. Update on bird content for committee website and other website improvements

Mr. Hagner and Mr. Tomaszewicz summarized the updates that were included on the Village website. The updates were necessary so that it is consistent with the Bird City application. Content was also added to the recent Village Manager's Memo to inform residents how they can help the bird population along with a link to the new updated website. Mr. Liberatore briefly went through the Sustainability Shorewood and the Conservation Committee page. Those that have additional content to add to the website should reach out to Mr. Liberatore with ideas. There was general discussion about messaging and issues related to the debate about having cats outdoors without a leash, collar, etc. Ms. Atre reminded the Committee of the grant received for the windows at

the schools. Ms. Kuebler, Mr. Liberatore, and Ms. Pipek volunteered to help once the construction is done.

7. Update on Conditional Use Permit discussion and Grow Solar initiative

Mr. Liberatore, Mr. McGovern, and Mr. Burkart met with Village staff about ways to make the solar installation process easier. Staff presented reasons why a conditional use permit would be needed for properties near the business corridor but not for properties beyond a certain footage since buildings would not interfere with sunlight for a panel. The Village could consider waiving the permit fee for those applying for the permit. Staff is working on making this change for the next wave of applications for the Grow Solar initiative. Mr. Liberatore updated the Committee on the Solar Power Hours coordinated by MREA currently going on this summer, including Shorewood's on May 21. There was an idea about having residents who participated in the last solar buy program share their energy savings as a case study to promote in Village communications. North Shore Fire provided a letter sharing their success with solar thus far.

8. Discuss climate initiatives and other opportunities for 2025 reporting

Mr. Liberatore updated that there was a Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition that meets to discuss ways they can execute best practices and meet goals to find climate change solutions. Several cities and counties have already signed on. Mr. Liberatore asked for members to consider joining the coalition and review the proposed resolution template for the Village Board to consider. Ms. Kuebler and Mr. Hagner volunteered to help with the initiative. Mr. Burkart mentioned he could serve as the Village staff representative, if needed. Mr. Liberatore will report back on the time commitment needed for participating in this coalition.

9. Update on environmental film screening and other future in-person events

Mr. Tomasiewicz reported that the Fin and Feather Festival will occur in the Spring while the film festival will happen in the Fall. This will allow things that are built during the Fin and Feather Festival to go up right away in the Spring and used for the entire Spring and Summer. Ms. Atre and Ms. Witt are committed to helping Mr. Tomasiewicz with the planning efforts for the Fin and Feather Festival. The Committee mentioned the idea of focusing the festival to be the first week of May.

Ms. Kuebler updated on the process with the School District to reserve the auditorium in October and November for the film festival. The School District calendar will be consulted when picking a date.

10. Subcommittee Reports

No reports.

11. Upcoming Events, Member Topics & Suggestions

Mr. Tomasiewicz mentioned there is a city in Ontario who make biofuels out of dog poop to power lights and buildings. Mr. Burkart mentioned the Budget and Finance will be discussing alternative revenue options, which includes adding a Refuse Utility.

Conservation Committee
June 3, 2021 Minutes

12. Adjournment

Mr. Tomaszewicz moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hagner. Vote 9-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tyler Burkart
Assistant Village Manager