



Conservation Committee

Minutes

July 7, 2022 7:00 PM

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Members present: Joshua Liberatore, Henry Tomaszewicz, Joey Sprague, Charles Hagner, Erin Povak, Diego Murphy, Meenal Atre, Caroline Kuebler, Maggie Pipek, Elisabeth Witt, Linda Frank.

Others present: Trustee Kathy Stokebrand, Janet Jesmok, Assistant Village Manager Chris Anderson.

Not present: Matt McGovern, Adelais Burkholder. Joe Shaffer (membership approved by Village Board on 7/5 and original invite had already been sent to committee).

2. Consider Approval of June 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Comments regarding potential cancellation of the August meeting and introduction of Diego Murphy, a new student member joining the committee. Ms. Frank had friendly amendment (Item 7 Caroline name spelling and present) seconded by. Motion by Mr. Tomaszewicz, seconded by Mr. Hagner motion to approve carried 10-0.

3. Discuss Citizen Concerns

Trustee Stokebrand and Janet Jesmok shared concerns on gas powered leaf blowers and to if this was a common concern among the community. Ms. Janet Jesmok shared her experience with how invasive the noise is for hired landscapers blow grass continuously. The issue starts with noise but also includes issues related to health of the community. Mr. Liberatore asked about the interest of the committee forming a small group to research options to include discussion with DPW re: getting the leaves/grass on the street could be increased particles/solids in the storm runoff. Discussion transitioned to potential violation of a noise ordinance, and Mr. Liberatore mentioned beginning the discussion with DPW. An additional point was made regarding possible OSHA violations if the machinery is harmful to workers.

4. Staff Liaison Updates

No formal update to report, but Mr. Liberatore revisited a previous discussion on the Police Department's fleet replacement. AVM Anderson to follow up with PD.

5. Discuss the interest in staffing a committee table at a Farmer's Market date this summer or fall and solicit volunteers

Mr. Liberatore shared a list of potential dates for the committee to staff the Farmer's Market table. Ms. Witt asked if there were any Conservation Committee events scheduled in the fall to promote a couple weeks before (e.g. before River Clean Up Oct. 2 and before leaf blowing starts in the fall). Ideas would be to promote No Mow May, possible leaf blower conversations. Promoting Shorewood Hometown Habitats page. Mr. Liberatore will consolidate dates to be shared by AVM Anderson.

6. Provide an update on No Mow May and other new initiatives

Mr. Tomaszewicz began conversation regarding the No Mow May project list to begin:

1. Identify contact list (Bart, Rebecca, Ann) for project initiation
2. Polish memo/board for staff presentation
3. Draft ordinance change (use applicable examples from other communities)
4. Time for staff study/attorney review?
5. Village board committees affected?
6. Get on board schedule for ordinance change

7. Provide feedback on recent committee events and initiatives

Mr. Hagner and Ms. Pipek discussed the latest with the Commercial Zoning Update and a one-page summary re: “what we’ve heard” was presented from the consultant to the Plan Commission. Ms. Frank/Ms. Sprague discussed ribbon cutting at Dominion Building and the solar cells (only 3 vertical arrays in the state and we have one of them). Ms. Frank has a new initiative related to native gardens to promote for this year. She also asked the committee to consider getting involved in a Bumblebee Brigade that could be done at Estabrook Park. Ms. Frank will research more about what is required to get involved. Ms. Sprague brought up ordinance that may be discouraging people from planting native gardens (Ch. 220 landscape management plan). The committee agrees that there would be enough support to change this ordinance. Ms. Frank also had a thought on Shorewood Earth Friendly yard of the year to be a compilation of No Mow May, native gardens, chemical applications, etc. and the prize would be a yard sign. Folks can nominate and narrow down to semifinalists to be featured in Shorewood Today. The final vote could be held at the next pollinator palooza where the winner could be announced. Announce in the Spring that the votes will be taken starting Summer 2023. Ms. Povak asked for yard survey data for the participants that have walked. Mr. Tomaszewicz reminded the committee of the July 23 River clean up.

8. Subcommittee Reports

None.

9. Upcoming Events, Member Topics & Suggestions

Mr. Liberatore asked if the committee would be in favor of cancelling the August meeting and the committee was in favor to come back the 1st Thursday of September.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Tomaszewicz moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hagner and passed with an 11-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chris Anderson
Assistant Village Manager