



Conservation Committee

Minutes

October 7, 2021 7:00 P.M.

River Park

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members present: Joshua Liberatore, Chuck Hagner, Maggie Pipek, Caroline Kuebler, Linda Frank, Erin Povak, Bella Peaslee, and Henry Tomasiewicz.

Not present: Elisabeth Witt, Donna Pollock, Matt McGovern, Pat Wilson, Meenal Atre, and Trustee Wesley Warren

2. Consider Approval of September 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Tomasiewicz moved to approve the September 2, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kuebler. Vote 7-0 to approve the minutes.

3. Discuss Citizen Concerns

Ms. Peaslee mentioned the “How to be a Good Neighbor” video series planned for this fall/winter: leaf removal, North Shore Health, citizen engagement will be the topics for this year’s series. Ms. Peaslee has everything she needs in terms of content/material and scripts already approved. Tying in the messaging with similar messages at the Library Digital display would be a nice way of cross-targeting the messages in two places. Mr. Hagner expressed some neighborly concern about the half-green alley Ardmore/Wildwood and Congress/Kensington. Worries about the seam and possible ponding have come up among neighbors, as well as question about why the alley is only half-green (pervious).

4. Discuss Bird Monitoring and Collision Avoidance Best Practices

Mr. Hagner proposed a simple program of student/teacher-led monitoring of the elementary school buildings, where classrooms would gather information about “problem areas” in the school buildings as far as bird strikes go. Ms. Pipek described a case study from a Cornell University community that illustrated a successful bird monitoring initiative. She wondered if the 5th grade would be a good place to start. A strategy for approaching the schools, using Atwater as a starting point, perhaps with the grant and product that Ms. Atre has already organized providing a model to be brought to Lake Bluff. Mr. Liberatore will follow up with Ms. Atre to see where things stand with the grant proposal and implementation.

5. Discuss Next Steps with Yard Survey Data Collection and Pesticide/Salt Awareness Campaign

Ms. Kuebler provided some background to the committee about the original motivation for the Yard Survey designed and disseminated by the Conservation Committee in 2019. About 120 responses have been collected to date (with a new Manager’s Memo prompt published in the most recent edition). Ms. Kuebler mentioned a possible target of getting 400 responses, which would provide a solid sample for analysis and policy recommendations. The push right now should be to gather a larger number of responses.

Ms. Povak mentioned that using the village and school commitments to not using pesticides on their properties as an appropriate and compelling way of selling a healthier approach to individual property owners. Mr. Liberatore also mentioned the possibility of establishing an ordinance in Shorewood that begins to address individual pesticide applications. It was discussed that the ordinance approach could be viewed as a future option if education/outreach fail to achieve a reduction in pesticide use. The discussion then turned to data collection on current pesticide use. Ms. Pipek mentioned the possibility of a crowd-sourced walking survey to determine the prevalence of lawn pesticide use. Different methods of casual data collection on pesticide use around town were discussed. More study is needed to determine the best way of establishing a prevalence baseline for pesticide use in Shorewood. The survey will begin the process for now.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Frank wanted to follow up briefly on the possibility of adding a green infrastructure component in the Lake Drive reconstruction project. The consultant has been selected (KAPUR) and will assess the feasibility of adding green infrastructure to the existing road project.

7. Upcoming Events, Member Topics & Suggestions

None offered.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Tomasiewicz moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hagner. Vote 7-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tyler Burkart
Assistant Village Manager