

FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Thursday April 20th, 2023 @ 8:00 A.M.

Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

- 1.) Chairman Tom Sasse called the meeting to order @ 8: 03 a.m.
- 2.) **Roll Call:** Nick Badendick, Tom Sasse, Susan K. Seidl, Jeff Werner **Also Present:** Director of Parks, Rec., and Forestry John Bostedt; Diane Motiff
- 3.) **Seidl declared approval of Agenda; Werner motioned second. (4 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 03/14/2023 was met with a motion of Sasse and second of Werner. (4 Ayes)**
- 5.) **Public Input:** None.
- 6.) **Correspondence:**
 - a.) Northeastern WI Forest Health Update - WI DNR- 4/5/2023 Two issues dominated discussion: Oak trees should NOT be pruned this April AND in Manitowoc County a wasp to deal with EAB has been produced.
 - b.) Wisconsin Pollinators – (2) “Native Plant Herb Garden” 03/19/23 centered on just that as well as offered a great WI nursery list for it. Included was why we should grow native grasses. Other info paralleled past reads....

“Provide Spring Nesting Materials” 04/02/23 Bee information told us that commercial housing doesn’t work: it was noted that butterfly houses are also less than successful. Sasse and Werner were informative on Rain Gardening which controls runoff and beautifies the area: noted as bio retention areas. Spring nesting materials as well as a quiz on fungi were included.
- 7.) **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**
 - a.) *Future Tree Planting Areas*– A standing list exists and is being addressed with planting Arbor Day in May when we work with the 6th graders of the district.
 - b.) *Other City Website Ideas for Forestry Page*– Sasse suggests we once again include pictures of the planting with the 6th grade Arbor Day project.
 - c.) *Sharp Park (Select Cut/Buckthorn/Clean Up)* The Committee met with Park and Rec. this past week who sought an update as to our intent. Chairman Sasse addressed the issue with assertions from each Committee member as well. Park and Rec. was fully at ease with our moving forward.
 - d.) *Sharp Park Buckthorn/Goat Project/Plan (Information from Meeting with Stephanie Bowers @ Sharp Park)* The Sharp Park walkthrough was an answer to many questions. Stephanie IDed areas where debris removal is necessary before she comes. Dates need to be established now if Steve Stock and the Sportsman’s Club intend to become a part of our renewal. (Their volunteer service is recognized as an extensive offer.) However, Sasse stated that “the more you disturb the soil... the worse the Buckthorn problem”.
 - e.) *Grants* (Google Docs) for Buckthorn– Director Bostedt will contact Stephanie as to her research/filling of the grants available she has found. It was emphasized that we cannot start “Goats on the go” until we have enough money to cover their work. Thereafter, the City will review them, move them on to Council, and follow with commitments.

f.) *Information from Joint Meeting with Park & Rec. Committee*– See c. above. It was reassuring that the entire Forestry Committee attended and that Sasse took the helm.

g.) *From Stephanie: Sharp Park- What to Expect and Sharp Park's Quote* for Buckthorn removal from the goat chew-off which was handed out at our meeting led to the following results: there will be 2 targeted grazing services (both full service of the 17 acres). Timeframes are mid-May to mid-June, and September. The subtotal was \$31,416 with a discount on her part of 33%, making the total \$21,049.

h.) *2023 6th Grade Poster Contest Judging*, accomplished @ the meeting conclusion; the team will take down last year's entries (21) and display this year's winners and 6th grade work after our Arbor Day activities. Motiff joined the judging. Werner will see that the 7th grade posters are returned. The Poster Contest revealed #17; 15; and 16 won respectively: names will be announced @ the Arbor Day celebration when we plant.

i.) *2023 Arbor Day Tree Planting with 6th Graders*– Werner's footwork is appreciated by the Committee as he is our Middle School connection; he too will set up the dates chosen with those educators: Thursday, May 18 with a Friday, May 19 Rain Date OR Tuesday, May 23 with a Rain Date of Wednesday, May 24. Thereafter he will create the Arbor Day activity schedule, once again, which will be distributed @ the next Forestry meeting. It was agreed that we would finish our planting @ the Harbor and with \$ yet available, what we can accomplish on Jones. That leaves on our "Wish List" of 4 replacement Coffee trees and 5 Japanese Lilac on Main and 2 trees on the Beyer Home property: Note the latter trees, removed, have yet eliminated the stumps so the area can settle.

8.) Next Meeting Date/Time: **Wednesday, May 3rd @ 8 a.m.**

Agenda Items: Sharp Park (Buckthorn/Clean Up); Grants

2023 Arbor Day Tree Planting with 6th Graders

9.) **Adjournment was summoned by Sasse @ 9:20 a.m. Werner motioned second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl