

## FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Wednesday June 14th, 2023 @ 8:00 A.M.  
Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

- 1.) Chairman Tom Sasse called the meeting to order @ 8:02 a.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Nick Badendick(+ 8:15), Tom Sasse, Susan K. Seidl, Jeff Werner  
Also Present: Director of Park, Rec., and Forestry John Bostedt, Chairman of Park and Rec. Committee Sue Anderson and member Diane Motiff
- 3.) **Seidl called for approval of Agenda; Werner motioned second. (3 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 05/03/2023 was placed into motion by Sasse with a Werner second. (3 Ayes)**

5.) Public Input: Anderson spoke for herself and Motiff of the Park and Rec. Committee that they were interested in the Sharp Park progress to which Director Bostedt responded that we don't have the Staff to work the Park: 2 missing positions. The City bucket truck is not safe, having work worthy violations flagged presently, and cannot extend the length of park needs. We might have to hire out for widowmakers, however presently they do not threaten the trail walkers therein as the City crew have seen to that. Bostedt said a City employee was to connect with the Sportsman's Club to get things started with the Buckthorn but evidently this has not happened.

6.) Correspondence:

a.) Northeastern WI Forest Health Update - WI DNR-5/8/2023 Noteworthy is that EAB is down to 5 remaining counties in the State without infestation. The wasp/beetle innovative solution is in waiting as it is seeking funding.

b.) Wisconsin Pollinators – (3)

“No Mow May-Help Feed the Bees” (4/30/2023) Discussed, aside from the title, were invasive jumping worms and Monarch butterflies returning in May.

“Safe Way to Get Rid of Household Ants” (5/14/2023) Again, aside from the topic title, both native violets and the biology/life cycle of EAB were brought to the forefront.

“How Do Butterflies Date?” (5/28/2023)

c.) Wisconsin DNR- (Celebrate Free Fun Weekend June 3-4) 6/1/2023 This is Invasive Species action month.

7.) **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**

a.) *Future Tree Planting Areas* have been established by the Committee. We hope to plant our trees in fall: weather related.

b.) *Other City Website Ideas for Forestry Page:* recently added has been a list of how to protect and attract birds to “your” nest.

c.) *Sharp Park (Select Cut/Buckthorn/Clean Up)* (cont. from Public Input...) Anderson shared what she has learned about matched money for

grants... which CAN come from elsewhere. Bostedt and Sasse stated that grants have lacked application though Bowers sent websites and stated that she finds applications quite easy... and could approach them. A *supportive grant* needs application as *well* since the City Budget/Parks is depleted. It was noted that only the Fire Dept. *has* grant writers: why can't they assist Forestry? Badendick stated that we plan to contact Bowers concerning her grant intent. Director Bostedt will contact Bowers directly and seek some finality. NOTE: an e-mail correspondence was given to the Committee but lacks clarification on any of these issues. Sharp Park may not be able to participate this year with the full cost of the needed project.

d.) *Grants* (Google Docs) for Buckthorn BOTH d.) and e.) were discussed above.

e.) From Stephanie: Sharp Park-What to Expect and Sharp Park Quote: \$21,000 SEE c.)

f.) *2023 Arbor Day Tree Planting with 6th Graders*— Our tree selection was not available at the nursery for Forestry planned dates: weather related. Quick thinking led to a change of plans. We were able to meet on-the-street and at City Hall to take the Historical walk and discuss how to plant a tree, as well as a multitude of other issues concerning trees. Winners of the Poster Contest were announced, credit and plaques given, and pictures of the group were taken. Students were so interested this year that they were requesting the packet to be distributed that same afternoon they returned to school: *Director Bostedt had it there*. The Committee plans to meet with this now 7th grade group of students to finish off planting opportunities in fall 2023.

g.) *Display of 2023 Posters From Poster Contest* was delayed until the meeting closed but lasted another 35 minutes to complete.

8.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, July 12th @ 8 a.m.

**9.) Werner summoned adjournment @ 8:50 a.m. to place posters of the 6th grade Arbor Day Celebration in the City Hall corridor for public display. Badendick motioned second. (4 Ayes)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl