

## MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING

on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 @ 8:00 A.M.

held in the Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

- 1.) The September Forestry meeting was called to order by Chairman Sasse.
- 2.) **Roll Call:** Tom Sasse, Susan K. Seidl, Jeff Werner; **Absent:** Nick Badendick; **Also Present:** Director of Parks, Rec. and Forestry John Bostedt; Diane Motiff, Lori Stenstrup
- 3.) **Seidl called motion for approval of Agenda; Werner issued second. (3 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 08/23/2023 was moved by Sasse with a Werner second. (3 Ayes)**
- 5.) Public Input: None.
- 6.) Correspondence:
  - a.) Northeastern WI Forest Health Update - WI DNR- 9/4/2023 Sasse called to mind that only 3 WI counties remain free of EAB. Werner alerted us to disrespect of the public in forests making them a public dump, which was expressed within the Update. Bostedt sadly supported this news.
  - b.) Wisconsin Pollinators – 9/3/2023 Hummingbird and Monarch Butterfly Fall migration were key issues. Sasse and Werner noted the article on growing cranberries: 59% of this industry comes from WI. Sasse added that cranberries are one of the store fruits native to the U.S. Werner also mentioned the unique way bumble bees gain and distribute pollen.
  - c.) Wisconsin DNR-Info (9/1/2023), Explore all that's rooted in Wisconsin by becoming a "counting" volunteer.
  - d.) WNR- Fall Issue 9/14/2023 centered on its upcoming magazine: WI-NR. Bostedt noted that the younger generation isn't picking up hunting and passing it down the family.
- 7.) **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**
  - a.) Future Tree Planting Areas have been identified to date.
  - b.) Other City Website Ideas for Forestry Page will remain as is.
  - c.) Sharp Park (up- date) Director Bostedt and crew have downed trees and cleaned up for the winter months.
  - d.) Set-Up Meeting For Grants 2024 -Buckthorn- A conference call with Stephanie from "Goats on the Go" (who is filling out the Grant) included Administrator Brittney Burrue and Director Bostedt who will take care of the paperwork on this end, as well as a grant expert: Jeff. We learned that we are eligible for funding and it looks like the grant amount would cover what is needed here. Bostedt will bring forward the next move @ the Oct. meeting. The Committee agreed with Motiff's emphasis on having a City of Oconto Grant Writer.
  - e.) Update on Planted Trees with Drought Conditions– The loss remains at one: Park, Rec. and Forestry crew huddled around the needy plantings. Presently the county is in need of moisture again.
  - f.) Up-date on Nuisance Trees– Two are down; one to go. The Box Elder infestation has gone up these last two years: Note, says Bostedt: the bugs will come back and increase if the infested wood remains on the property.
  - g.) Fall Planting 2023 will depend on the fall availability chart: Bostedt will call for one. Five plantings have been planned. With Committee approval, Director Bostedt will move ahead with the process. It remains a question as to 7th grader involvement: Werner will contact them accordingly when we can have a plan in place.
  - h.) The intended 2024 Forestry Budget was distributed by Director Bostedt @ the meeting. Discussion followed.  
**Sasse called to accept the 2024 presented Budget with the request that carryover money remain in the Forestry Budget and be used for a necessary tree inventory assessment (6 years overdue as a Tree City) and/or an EAB inventory. Werner issued a second. (3 Ayes)**
- 8.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, October 10 @ 8 a.m.  
Agenda Items: Tree City renewal  
Grant Writing update  
2023 Fall Planting
- 9.) **Seidl summoned adjournment @ 8:50 a.m. Werner witnessed the second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl