

**BROWN DEER BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
MAY 11, 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
HELD BY PHONE DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Quirk at 6:31p.m.

I. Roll Call

Present: Trustee Julie Quirk, Kelly Graham, Sarah Bork, Jennifer Rochefort, Bev Lieven, Chris Loebach, Brian Eggers

Also Present: Matthew Maederer; Director of Public Works, Erika Petras, Department of Public Works

II. Introduction of New Committee Member, Mr. Brian Eggers.

Trustee Quirk introduced our newest committee member, Mr. Brian Eggers. Mr. Eggers provided some background information, including that he and his husband won a 2020 Brown Deer in Bloom Landscape Award. Welcome Brian.

III. Persons Desiring to be Heard

None.

IV. Consideration of Minutes: April 13, 2021 - Virtual Meeting

It was moved by Ms. Bork and seconded by Mr. Graham to approve the April 13, 2021 virtual meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously, with Mr. Loebach and Mr. Eggers, abstaining.

V. Review of Submitted Landscape Plans

None.

VI. Report of Staff/Committee Members

Mr. Maederer reported on Department of Public Works activities including transition away from tree removal and planting and gearing up for summer construction projects. Mr. Maederer provided a brief update on the Brown Deer Road project. Mr. Graham inquired if we had found a new turf management contractor, Mr. Maederer explained that public works staff will continue to cut grass this year and depending on outcome a decision will be made whether to bid out turf management in the fall for next year.

Ms. Petras thanked Trustee Quirk, Mr. Graham and Ms. Roquefort for their help in planting the 2021 Arbor Day tree – a Princeton Sentry Ginkgo on Friday May 7, 2021.

Ms. Petras informed the committee that the Appliance and Electronics Recycling Event has been scheduled for Monday September 13, 2021 from 3:30P.M. – 6:30P.M. in the Parking lot of Village Hall. A flyer will be emailed to committee members and advertised in upcoming Brown Deer Trackers and magazine.

VII. Unfinished Business

A) Emerald Ash Borer Treatment Program

Mr. Nathan Schuettpelz, Wachtel Tree Science, appeared before the committee to review the Village's Emerald Ash Borer treatment plan. Mr. Maederer provided a program overview and explained that he was looking for committee recommendation for this program going forward in advance of CIP budget discussion in July.

Mr. Schuettpelz explained the efficacy of treatment and what ending treatment would mean. Mr. Schuettpelz further detailed the benefits of street trees and maintaining the canopy. Focusing on the benefits of trees Mr. Schuettpelz described the pleasing aesthetics, environmental impact – improves air quality, assists with storm water mitigation, wildlife habitat; economic impact – maintained landscapes can add up to 5-20% of the home's value, trees are a part of that. Lastly, emotional and physical benefits to humans on a sociological level. The presence of trees is connected to lower crime, reduced recovery times, better emotional health, and a reduction in anxiety and depression. How long will treatment be required? no definitive answer, maybe within the next ten to fifteen years treatment can be stretched as risk declines.

Mr. Maederer explained the difference between a clear-cut approach and a phased approach. Mr. Loebach inquired about the cost and financing of a clear-cutting operation. Mr. Maederer stated that most of the trees are larger than public works equipment can safely remove, so removal would need to be contracted at an estimated cost of \$1000 per tree. As total costs would approach \$200,000 the Village would need to borrow money to complete the removal.

Mr. Graham questioned Mr. Eggers, as a realtor, if trees did add value to a property. Mr. Eggers opined that clear cutting does negatively affect a neighborhood.

Trustee Quirk opined strongly to continue to treat the trees and sought to put together a document with proven research to defend the preservation of the trees.

Ms. Rochefort questioned the benefit to the community of protecting such a small area of the Village, Mr. Maederer explained that this area has the highest concentration of ash trees and would suffer the most without treatment.

Mr. Loebach spoke in favor of a phased approach in which dead trees were removed and replanted in conjunction with treatment of healthy trees with the goal being to save money and preserve the canopy. Mr. Maederer explained that Mr. Loebach had described exactly what the Public Works department is currently doing. Mr. Loebach stated that with smart planning both goals of cost and tree saving can be achieved.

Mr. Schuettpelz offered to develop a document with backing research to present to the board. Mr. Maederer will meet with Mr. Schuettpelz and prepare a plan to bring before the committee next month.

B) Brown Deer in Bloom Landscape Awards Program

Trustee Quirk provided a brief overview of the program. Judging areas were assigned. Ms. Lieven is preparing information packets and will send them to committee members. Ms. Petras will contact Mr. Eggers to arrange for delivery of a map and magnet. The first set of winners will be decided at the June meeting.

VIII. New Business

A) Future Meeting Plans

Trustee Quirk explained that the Village Board will resume in person meetings in July. Ms. Bork spoke in favor of meeting in person in June to share photos for award nominations. Trustee Quirk asked who was in favor of resuming in person meetings; it was unanimously voted to resume in person meetings in June.

IX. Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. Lieven and seconded by Mr. Graham to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously at 7:52 p.m.

Erika S. Petras
Department of Public Works