

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF  
METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 VIA ZOOM**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bohm called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Bohm, Members Pink and Towne

Absent: None

Chairman Bohm declared a quorum present.

Also, on the call: Village Administrator, Bob Irvin; Village Engineer, Scott Anderson; Trustee Sheldon

**C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING**

Meeting minutes of August 12, 2020 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Towne and seconded by Member Pink that the meeting minutes be approved and placed on file. The motion was carried.

**D. REVIEW FOREST BUILDERS PROPOSAL FOR THE POLLINATOR GARDENS FOR WHIPPOORWILL PARK**

Chairman Bohm said a proposal was received from Forest Builders. The first page includes the workplan to start in September-October and the second page includes the plant listing. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said the planting listing is a preliminary not a final list. Chairman Bohm said the final list will be completed once the whole area is measured to determine the plantings. Trustee Sheldon asked Chairman Bohm if they could discuss the plug plants. Member Towne asked if David Johannessen could provide a final cost amount for the plantings. Village Administrator Irvin confirmed the cost of the project will be \$18,000, with \$9,000 to be received from ComEd. Village Administrator Irvin said the design work has already been completed by James Anderson. Village Engineer Scott Anderson added no planting would occur this fall. The features included in the proposal are warming stones, retaining wall and flagstones for the butterflies. Chairman Bohm indicated step 7 is to measure the area in order to finalize the planting area. Chairman Bohm also indicated another idea is to add a small basin in the ground to retain water for the pollinators. A second planting area would be at the north end of the preserve and this area was also part of the grant. Member Pink asked the Village Engineer to finalize the September October work in order for it to be approved. Member Sheldon asked that the breakdown of labor and the number of plants be provided. Trustee Towns said a clarification is needed for step 5 on the material. Village Administrator Irvin said the 2020 cost and the landscaping features need to be finalized before sending it off to the Board for approval. Chairman Bohm said he will work with David Johannessen to determine the material being used and he will work with Trustee Sheldon on finalizing the plant listing for the next Committee meeting.

**E. UPDATE ON THE INSTALLATION OF THE BENCH HONORING BARRY MACLEAN**  
Village Engineer Scott Anderson said the concrete pad has been completed. He will be picking-up the bench from the Mayor's house and attaching the bench onto the pad. Trustee Towne said he has the rock for the bench. Village Administrator Irvin said the plaque is also available.

**F. UPDATE ON THE STEWARDSHIP ON THE HAMILTON ESTATES PROPERTY ON RIVERWOODS BLVD**  
Village Administrator Irvin said the Village Attorney Rhodes is working on the language regarding the conservation easement that indicates it includes permission for a Village to maintain the property along the trail. Chairman Bohm added resident Larry Falbe is also supporting this stewardship and will communicate this update to the Hamilton Estates Homeowners Association.

**G. UPDATE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF BRADLEY ROAD AND RIVERWOODS BLVD**  
Chairman Bohm said he has not heard an update from ILM's representative Kelley Blake if this location can be added to their maintenance schedule. An update will be provided upon receipt.

**H. REVIEW ILM PROPOSAL FOR INVASIVE WOODY REMOVAL IN WHIPPOORWILL PARK**  
Chairman Bohm said the sumac at Whippoorwill Park needs to be treated. As a result, the Committee received ILM's proposal treatment plan in the amount of \$1,780. Member Sheldon asked if the plants around the sumac could be treated. Trustee Towne indicated the sumac should not be treated and possibly treat this issue at a later time.

A motion was made to approve the ILM proposal for the treatment of the sumac at Whippoorwill Park. The motion was moved by Member Pink and seconded by Chairman Bohm. The motion was carried.

Member Pink said ILM made the recommendation not a Committee member. Chairman Bohm said on August 12, on their 3<sup>rd</sup> stewardship visit to the park, ILM indicated the sumac is overtaking the hillside. The recommendation was received from ILM to ensure this plant does not overtake the surrounding plants. Chairman Bohm said the Committee should follow ILM's recommendations. Trustee Towne indicated this service should be included in ILM's regular maintenance schedule.

**I. REPLACE OF TINDALL TRAIL SIGN**  
Trustee Towne said the new sign was misspelled by Signarama. They estimate the new sign to cost \$280. The Village would need to install the new sign, the original pole can be used. Trustee Towne will handle the installation of the new sign.

A motion was made to replace the Tindall trail sign not to exceed in the amount of \$300. The motion was moved by Member Towne and seconded by Member Pink. The motion was carried.

**J. OPEN LANDS BUCKTHORN REMOVAL ON PRIVATE PROPERTY PROGRAM**  
Chairman Bohm said resident Karen Carruthers (25220 N. Shagbark Road) representing MOLA would like to speak about Open Lands new program of assisting residents to remove buckthorn

from their private property. Mrs. Carruthers said Open Lands has received a grant as part of the Chicago's region tree program in support of oak trees. Open Lands has received \$20,000 and they would like to match 50% of the cost to remove buckthorn or other invasive plants around oak trees. This program requires the clearing of buckthorn to be done within the next two winters and completed by March 2022. Mrs. Carruthers said MOLA would like to launch this program in October and receive the Board's support by communicating it to the residents. Some guidelines have been placed by Open Lands. The homeowner would need to obtain the contractor for the work and Open Lands would cover half of the expense. Chairman Bohm said the Village involvement would be to publish the information. Trustee Towne ask if this program is only for Mettawa. Mrs. Carruthers said at this time MOLA would only be working with Mettawa residents. Member Pink said she supported this program.

Resident, Jess Ray (350 Little Melody Lane) ask about the 50/50 matching, who determines the level of work to be completed and the overall cost for the program. Mrs. Carruthers said the process would include an assessment of the lot. The work would be done by an Open Lands representative and the contractor would be obtained by the home owner. The home owners would need to agree on the final cost.

Village Administrator Irvin said no Board approval is required as only communicating this information to the residents is being requested. An update of this program can be communicated to the Board at next week's meeting. The Committee was in consensus of the communication.

**K. DISCUSS THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST'S REQUEST TO CONSIDER THE TRAIL CONNECTION ON THE NORTH SIDE**

Chairman Bohm mentioned Lake Forest has asked the Village if they would like to connect the Mettawa trails to their trails. Village Administrator Irvin said the Community Developer Director of Lake Forest contacted him regarding this matter. About five years ago the Village did a study about connecting the two communities along Route 60's trail. Parks and Recreation Committee decided not to connect these two trails. Lake Forest mentioned it would be a shared cost. Village Administrator Irvin added different configurations were made. Trustee Towne indicated the Committee in the past indicated our residents would not be interested. Chairman Bohm said a bridge has since been added since the last discussions. Member Pink said she doesn't feel our residents would utilizing this trail and we would need to maintain this area as well. Chairman Bohm will provide the Board an update on the Committee's consensus to not move forward with connecting the trail with Lake Forest.

**L. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION, AND IF APPROVED, BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Chairman Bohm said he received a communication from a resident regarding some mature oak trees being removed from a home owners' property. The resident asked that the Village consider issuing permits on the removal of mature trees. Chairman Bohm said he followed-up with the resident and they indicated the trees were diseased. Trustee Towne will follow-up with a contact name for Chairman Bohm on handling oak trees. Village Administrator Irvin said many surrounding communities have a tree removal permitting process. Member Pink asked if there is

any treatment for oak wilt disease. Trustee Towne indicated the Committee should not consider permitting removal of mature trees.

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Member Towne and seconded by Member Pink to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk