

VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS HERITAGE & ENVIRONS COMMITTEE (“HEC”)
Meeting Minutes May 17, 2017

Call to Order:

Neil Fern called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

Roll Call:

Neil Fern called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm

Members present: Lorraine Briggs, Neil Fern, Suzy Mogler, Liz Olsen

Liason(s) present: Sgt. Kann, Bob Kosin

Members absent: Donato Cantalupo, Robin VanCastle, Erin Vondra

Request for Public Comments:

Based on attendance there was no quorum and the vote on minutes was pushed until next meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Neil called for approval of the minutes for the March 15, 2017 meeting. Lorraine Briggs asked for a modification to Monarch Way Station second sentence to: “Lorraine reported that she had research butterfly houses and found experiences and a study wherein they were not used by butterflies.” The minutes were then unanimously approved by the committee members.

McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) Presentation:

Ed Collins a biologist with the MCCD discussed various regional efforts that are underway which included the Chicago Regional Tree Initiative. The presentation had a strong focus on the loss of oak trees to our local and greater area (restoration of the oak eco-system). MCCD studies indicate that over the last 180 years McHenry County has lost around 89% of the oak trees that were in the original land survey maps. He suggested that Lake County has a similar loss. Mr. Collins noted that the Village of Barrington Hills has also had a significant loss of mature oaks. He passed around literature noting that prior to the Emerald Ash Borer, 14% of the street coverage was ash trees. He noted that MCCD’s main effort is in protection and noted that climatic changes have the biggest impact thru direct and indirect effect. He mentioned a possible matching funding thru Common Wealth Edison’s Green Region Grant. Lorraine mentioned a concern over oak wilt and Mr. Collins noted that the root and spore issues associated with the wilt had the greatest impact on red oaks. Mr. Collins said Burr oak blight is also having an impact on oak trees. With regards to the Arbor day 2018 project, planting a diverse variety was a key takeaway.

Scavenger Lid Ordinance Update:

The Committee briefly touched upon the approval of the revised Scavenger Ordinance noting an effective date of October 1st, 2017 and the fine amount (\$50).

Deck the Walls Update:

The committee noticed some updated art has been hung and Bob Kosin mentioned working on a release form prior to accepting art from residents.

Village Monarch Way Station:

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Liz & Suzy volunteered to help lead the planting. Neil was coordinating with Troop 21 and Pack 187 for volunteers. Plants were on site although due to some earlier weather issues not all plants were delivered and additional plants (approx. 15) should be available around June 20th. The committee reviewed the new IDOT Mowing Approach to help protect Monarch Butterflies, the JULIE utility location service confirming that there were no underground obstructions and that the village sprinkler system was scheduled for activation around May 23rd.

VBH Promotion:

Loraine noted some inconsistencies in the promotion of the Village namely fireworks and firearms. Some village website links were no longer functioning and a request for information submission went unanswered.

Spring Landscaping:

Bob Kosin mentioned the Village was negotiating landscape contracts and suggested rescheduling Spring landscape updates to Fall.

Arbor Day 2018:

Regarding the Arbor Day 2018 planting the committee discussed keeping the Arbor Day 2018 project focused on reforestation as opposed to residential tree handouts. Liz mentioned BACT has properties that are in need of planting.

Date & Time Survey:

The committee decided to push the Time & Date Survey for HEC meetings until the next meeting based on attendance.

The Hills Are Alive 2017:

The committee discussed using the Hills Are Alive festival to promote both the updated Scavenger ordinance and promoting the Arbor Day 2018 project. The committee noted the earlier date for the Hills Are Alive and members in attendance unanimously agreed that a June meeting focusing on the Hills Are Alive (8/13/2017) should be scheduled based on a survey of availability on 6/14/2017.

New Business:

No new projects were brought forth.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM by unanimous vote of the members.