



**Heritage & Environs
Agenda & Notice of Meeting
February 21, 2018 3:00 PM
Village Hall**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 3. [VOTE] MINUTES JANUARY 17, 2018**
- 4. OLD BUSINESS**
 - 4.1. VBH Promotion
 - 4.2. Village Hall - Spring Landscape
 - 4.3. Village Monarch Butterfly Program & Rte. 25 Space Update
 - 4.4. Arbor Day Activities 2018 - Second Visit from BACT
 - 4.5. Spring Roadside Clean-Up - April 22nd, 2018
 - 4.6. Community Safety
 - 4.7. HEC Committee Structure
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 5.1. New Project Suggestions
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman: Neil Fern

NOTICE AS POSTED

VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS HERITAGE & ENVIRONS COMMITTEE (“HEC”)
Meeting Minutes January 17, 2018

Call to Order:

Neil Fern called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Lorraine Briggs, Danato Cantalupo, Neil Fern, Suzy Mogler and Robin VanCastle

Members Absent: Liz Olsen-Wolfgram and Erin Vondra

Liaisons Present: Paul Jacobsen, David Kann, Anna Paul and Bob Zubak

Guests: Lisa Woolford and Martin McLaughlin

Request for Public Comments:

There were no public comments made.

Approval of Minutes:

Lorraine Briggs recommended changes to the minutes of November 15, 2017 relating to the landscape section. Lorraine then made a motion and Dan seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved as revised.

Arbor Day Activities 2018:

Neil introduced Lisa Woolford, Executive Director of Barrington Area Conservation Trust (BACT). Lisa identified three BACT properties where they would welcome the addition of oak trees, Far Field Nature Preserve (Old Sutton & Lake Cook), Jack David Mondschine Wildlife Conservation Area (Hager’s Bend) and The Brothers Preserve (across from 360 Old Sutton). Lisa stated that they have a great deal of experience with mass plantings and have both power drills and manual dibbles that they would lend to the project. Lisa did not believe that the three locations could support 1,000 new trees, but offered help in distributing trees to residents. Lisa agreed to return to HEC’s next meeting to discuss further BACT’s potential involvement and support. She also stated she would inform Citizens for Conservation (CFC) of the committee’s plans as CFC may want to participate.

Anna Paul agreed to contact the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (“MWRD”) to determine whether the trees would be bare root or in containers and when they would be available in the spring.

The committee agreed to draft a press release about the planned tree planting and distribution once more of the details are known.

Village Hall - Landscape:

The committee has recommended relocating the 3 black walnut trees and cleaning the mold and weeds from the river rock that is at the base of the building. Anna Paul confirmed that the recommendations would be reviewed by Village Administration.

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Monarch Butterfly Garden on Rt. 25 Space Update:

The committee was informed that the Village is not proceeding with the curb cut until the further research is conducted about the costs and benefits of improving the Rt. 25 site.

Anna Paul reported that the Butterfly Garden resulted in positive press inside and outside the Village of Barrington Hills.

Road-side Cleanup:

Neil Fern reported that the spring road-side cleanup is scheduled for April 22, 2018. The boy Scouts will again be cleaning Helm road from 1 – 3 PM.

Village Hall Rehab:

A member of the committee had prepared a letter to the Trustees on the issue of how the committee’s Village Hall redecorating recommendations were not specifically implemented. The committee raised the question of how its recommendations to the Trustees and the Administration are fulfilled.

President McLaughlin speaking to the draft let discussed that only the Trustees had the authority to make final determinations. Recommendations from HEC are taken under consideration, but may not be implemented because of costs or other factors. McLaughlin then responded to members questions to clarify their understanding.

McLaughlin commented that HEC may be more effective if constituted as a volunteer group as opposed to a statutory committee. A different structure would allow more meeting flexibility and could facilitate the recruitment of more members.

Neil asked for a vote on whether the committee wanted to submit the letter to the Trustees. The committee voted not to send the letter.

Neil then asked the committee is they wanted to explore changing its structure and identifying the benefits and detriments of such a change. The committee voted to evaluate a possible change in structure. Anna Paul will conduct research on how the group could be structured in compliance with the laws in Illinois.

Community Safety:

The committee offered to provide community input to any potential plans by the police department to use technology to enhance community safety.

New Business:

None.

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Next Meeting:

The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2018 at 3:00 PM.

Adjournment:

On a motion ,made by Suzy Mogler and seconded by Robin VanCastle, the meeting voted to adjourned the meeting at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Robin VanCastle

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments are submitted by the public and are not reviewed or endorsed by the Village.

memo

Heritage and Environs Committee

To: Chairman Fern and members of the HEC
From: Paula Jacobsen, Trustee Liaison, and resident
CC: Bob Zubak, Trustee
Date: 21 February 2018
Re: Consideration of the HEC Structure

Dear HEC members,

at the January 17th HEC meeting President McLaughlin suggested that the HEC consider an alteration in structure from a committee defined by our policies to an external committee of volunteers in order to allow flexibility of attendance. This would eliminate the requirement for noticing the public of meetings, posting agendas, providing minutes, holding public meetings at Village Hall etc.

Having given this much thought, I would like to offer my perspective on this matter.

The heritage of our community and the preservation of the unique environment we are so fortunate to have here in Barrington Hills is of the utmost importance to residents. It is in fact the number one reason I hear from people as the basis for why they chose to move here and stay here.

“The Mission of the Heritage and Environs Committee is the preservation and safeguarding of the Village’s magnificent natural beauty, its precious traditions and unique rural character.”

The importance our Village has placed on the safeguarding of the rural character and traditions of our community led to the official designation of this committee. I believe to downgrade its importance an external volunteer group does not honor the purpose and mission that this committee was created to serve. In addition, it would no longer be a public meeting in which residents could participate. Given that the remit of the committee is near and dear to the hearts of so many residents, I feel it is remiss to alter

the committee structure in a way that precludes resident engagement.

I understand that there have been some challenges with meeting times and changing constraints on personal schedules for some committee members. I urge the committee to look broader than the current group's scheduling and consider what is in the best interest of the Village as it pertains to the important mission of the HEC. New committee members can be added that are able to meet at the times/dates and who have the available free time and interest. I put to you that this is the more desirable action rather than the alteration of the HEC's standing as an official committee with its right to bring forward valuable initiatives to the BOT.

If the committee is not operating optimally, I urge you to first make changes to committee within the confines of maintaining the HEC's official standing.

As Trustee Liaison, it is my purpose and privilege to support the important efforts of this committee and to report the HEC's activities to the BOT.

As to the activities of the HEC, I believe the committee should expand its remit beyond past initiatives and continue to grow towards its vision in fulfilling the mission of safeguarding the precious traditions and rural character of our Village, in an *official capacity*.