

VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS

Plan Commission Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 8, 2016 ~ 7:30 pm
112 Algonquin Road, Barrington Hills, IL

The Special Meeting of the Village of Barrington Hills Plan Commission was called to order by Chairman Bosworth at 7:39 pm

Members Present

Kenneth Bosworth
Lou Anne Majewski
Kelly Mazeski
Julie Joyce
Arnold Cernik
Curt Crouse

Member Absent

Pamela Cools
John Gigerich
Kim Van Fossan

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Chairman Bosworth asked for a motion for approval of the November 9, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Mazeski motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Joyce seconded. All present said aye.

NATIVE TREE PRESERVATION, CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION:

Meredith Tucker of Citizens For Conservation made an interesting and informative presentation about native trees and their importance to the ecosystem of Barrington Hills. She felt that the list of trees on the Tree Preservation Ordinance was terrific with the exception of the Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) that has become invasive from overuse. Some the reasons that local and native trees are best for the environment include:

- adapted over time to our climate
- adapted to our soil
- adapted to our hydrology
- have adapted to resist diseases
- provide wildlife habitats and sustenance for local insects who in turn provide food for our birds
- do not require much maintenance, never need fertilizer, pesticides, nor routine watering after 1-2 years

Meredith commented that the finest native tree in our area is the Burr Oak which grows in clay and supports over 500 species of butterflies. Another native is the Black Oak which grows in sand. We have two native evergreen, the Arbor vitae and the White Pine. Native water loving trees are the Willow and the River Birch. The Hackberry is a native that is tough as nails and the Linden or Basswood (bee tree) perfumes the entire neighborhood in spring. It is especially fast growing. Spicebush is another native that is deer resistant.

Meredith broached the subject of 'cultivars' which is a variety of plant manufactured by horticulturists by cross breeding until they have a new plant which they then clone. These clones provide fewer ecosystems services. Many times the birds will not eat the berries of a cultivar or the insects cannot feed on them dying off and leaving birds to starve. Meredith recognized that it is hard to buy native

trees and bushes. Nurseries react to consumers who demand beautiful trees that aren't messy and do not recognize the important role native trees play.

Meredith concluded by taking questions and offering suggestions for non-chemical treatment for diseases and to repel deer.

She also mentioned that the CFC have a plant dale where native trees, bushes, and other plants may be purchased. She asked us to consider restricting cultivars and also make homeowners aware of native bushes and other native plants.

TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE REVIEW:

Robert Kosin introduced Amy Olsen, Landscape Architect, who offered her perspectives with tree preservation ordinances in other municipalities. The Barrington Hills Tree Preservation Ordinance has been in effect for 9 years and in that time other municipalities have adopted similar ordinances. Ms. Olsen described planting standards and explained that tree roots extend out 3-4x the tree height and that in our clay soil roots are shallow. Anchoring roots which keep the tree in the ground can be accidentally cut during construction causing the tree to die or to alter topple.

Ms. Olsen had some suggestions for our tree ordinance including providing a list of 'nuisance trees' and encouraging more natives and less non-native trees, perhaps using a percentage of native and cultivars for replacement trees. She also described the success of a performance bond or escrow account for homeowners that need to comply with tree replacement ordinances.

Ms. Olsen cited as references documents available from the Morton Arboretum.

Robert Kosin presented the proposed amendment to the Tree Preservation Ordinance that was the result of working with Chuck Stewart, the Village Forester, and Commissioner Joyce. Chuck Stewart presented the highlights of the amendment and compared them to the existing ordinance. It was proposed to include more references to performance standards to forestry practices which included additional tables. The definition section of the amendment included specific professional organizations who establish such standards. There were also organizational revisions proposed to the format of the Ordinance. In terms of implementation the amendment contained a fee process that in certain circumstances could be paid in lieu of planting. Discussion occurred about the merit of this 'exception to planting' as well as the use of escrow accounts and the circumstances for their use. Further research on this topic was requested. The Commission asked for a red line copy between the proposed amendment and the existing ordinance to be available at the next meeting.

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY USAGE REVIEW:

No new information was available for consideration by the Plan Commission

TRUSTEE'S REPORT:

On behalf of Trustee Michelle Maison, information was presented that the levy as adopted was less than that of the previous year because of the state of Illinois pursuing centralized dispatching and efficiencies to insurance premiums.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Cernik motioned to adjourn at 9:25 pm. Commissioner Majewski seconded. All present said Aye. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Van Fossan, Recording Secretary