

# Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of March 10, 2022

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held at the Fox Point Village Hall on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

## 1. Roll Call

**Present:** Trustee Eric Fonstad (Chair), Louise Petering (via ZOOM teleconferencing), Judy Shirley & Ramsey Radakovich

**Absent:** Karen Shapiro

**Ex Officio:** John Gall, Village Forester

The meeting notice was mailed to the *North Shore Now* and to all others as required by the State open meeting laws, and posted on the Village website and bulletin boards.

A quorum being present, Trustee Fonstad called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Also attending the meeting were David Miller, 7401 N. Crossway Road, and, for the first part of the meeting, Larry Cohen, 200 W. Dunwood Road.

**Persons Desiring to be Heard:** None

## 2. Approval of Minutes.

Mr. Fonstad suggested a few typographical changes to the draft minutes. Following discussion, the minutes of the September 23, 2021, meeting were approved with the suggested changes.

## 3. Old Business.

### a. Utility Line Clearance Initiative by WE Energies/Asplundh

Forester Gall reported that WE Energies has substantially completed its project to trim or remove trees near their power lines in Fox Point. He noted that few complaints from residents have been received. The members of the Commission discussed an email from Commissioner Petering dated December 29, 2021, which included recommendations concerning trees in the Village. Following discussion, Forester Gall was asked to post information of the Village website regarding tree replanting guidelines for homeowners. The members of the Commission also discussed ways to increase tree cover in the Village and, in particular, ways to encourage businesses along Port Washington Road to plant mixed evergreen "green-rows" along their property lines adjacent to residential properties. It was noted that the Building Board addresses these issues when considering applications for new developments or modifications to existing businesses.

### b. Public Nuisance Trees on Private Property at Risk of Falling on Public Infrastructure

Forester Gall reviewed a letter and waiver prepared by counsel to be used in situations where a tree on private property is at risk of falling on public roads or paths. He reported that he continues to receive calls from home owners who are concerned about neighbors who are not taking care of dead and dying ash trees on their property. He has a standard approach when residents complain about neighbors trees. He encourages residents to resolve the issues with their neighbors and to followup with a written notice of the potential for property damage if the neighbors do not respond.

The letter and waiver drafted by counsel were requested by the Tree Commission to help address the related problem of dead or dying trees that threaten to fall onto roadways or other public property. The current drafts incorporate changes suggested by the Forester and the Tree Commission at its most recent meeting. The members of the Tree Commission requested minor modifications to the letter and waiver and authorized the Forester to begin using them.

#### **c. Ash Trees at Risk of Falling on Private Property**

The members of the Tree Commission reviewed a letter from counsel regarding trees at risk of falling on private property.

### **4. New Business**

#### **a. Forester's Activities Report for 2021 and Update Year-to-Date**

Forester Gall reviewed his activity report for 2021. He noted that the Village's 10-year Emerald Ash Borer initiative ended in 2020. The initiative enabled the Village to control the potentially catastrophic loss of ash trees and introduce a diverse tree species mix into the 8,000+ public tree population. The Village is continuing to treat 800 high value public ash trees.

High wind events on August 10, 2021 and December 15, 2021 resulted in significant tree loss and canopy damage. A total of 83 trees were removed during the year, including 18 EAB infected ash tree and two elm trees infested with Dutch Elm Disease.

With the end of the EAB initiative, the Village has restarted its ward pruning program. The Forester reported that bids for the 2022 EAB treatment program will be issued soon and that 109 new trees are scheduled to be planted in 2022. He also reported the Village received a grant from MMSD for the planting of 90 container sized native trees and shrubs at the Calumet Road bio retention basin and lower level of Indian Creek.

#### **b. Report on Tree Damage from December 15th Straight Line Windstorm**

The Forester reported that nine public trees were removed as a result of damage from the December 15, 2021 straight line windstorm.

#### **c. Arbor Day, April 29, 2022 at Stormonth School**

Forester Gall reviewed the proposed program for the Arbor Day observance at Stormonth School. He met with the new principal of Stormonth who is looking forward to the Arbor Day event.

#### **d. Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Topics**

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, July 7, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

### **5. Any other matters that may come before the Tree Commission (informational only – no action taken).**

Mr. Fonstad reported that he asked the Forester to consider removing Callery Pear trees from the Village's list of approved tree species due to its invasive tendencies. He also requested the Forester consider writing an article to update residents on the Indian Creek Woods project. Mr. Radakovich requested that the Forester provide the Commission with an update of the tree canopy in the Village. The Forester stated that he expects to propose changes to the Villages clear cutting ordinance at the Commission's next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.