

Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of September 23, 2021

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held by means of ZOOM teleconferencing on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Trustee Eric Fonstad (Chair), Judy Shirley, Karen Shapiro & Ramsey Radakovich

Absent: Louise Petering

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.

Persons Desiring to be Heard: None

2. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the December 12, 2019, meeting were approved.

3. Old Business.

a. Update on Indian Creek Woods Project

Forester Gall reported that approximately 300 trees were planted in the Indian Creek Woods in the fall of 2019 and that all the trees are doing well except for ten serviceberries. Ms. Shirley reported that members of the Indian Creek Stewardship group and the Garden Club have been watering and weeding the trees. Perennials were planted this fall and more trees will be planted next spring. She reported that neighbors have been pleased with the plantings and the upkeep.

b. Update on EAB on Private Property

Forester Gall reported that the Village is continuing to have problems with home owners 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.

A related problem involves dead or dying trees that threaten to fall onto roadways or other public property. Forester Gall presented a draft letter that could be sent to property owners to notify them that they have a dead or dying tree that constitutes a public nuisance. The property owner would be given thirty (30) days to correct the public nuisance. He also presented an announcement of the policy that could be posted to the Village website. The members of the Commission discussed these materials and asked Forester Gall to work with the Village Attorney to make certain changes to the letter.

In response to a question, Forester Gall stated that he would rely on residents to bring problem trees to his attention and that he would also make DPW staff aware of the policy and ask them to notify him if they happen to see a problem tree during the course of their work.

4. New Business

a. Forester's Activities Update

Forester Gall reviewed his activity report for 2020. He also reported that two elm trees on public property were removed during 2021 and that only 21 public elms over 15" in diameter remain in the Village.

He reported that all the remaining public ash trees in the Village are being treated. A total of 407 were treated in 2020 and 408 were treated in 2021. The Village planted 131 new trees in 2021.

Forester Gall reported that a scaled down Arbor Day observance was held at Maple Dale School in 2021 due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

b. Report on Tree Damage from August 10th Straight Line Windstorm

Forester Gall reported that 27 public trees were removed as a result of damage from the August 10, 2021, straight line windstorm.

c. Utility Line Clearance Initiative by WE Energies

Forester Gall noted that WE Energies was prepared to announce a program to address long delayed line clearance work in Fox Point that has contributed to numerous power outages but had to put the program on hold because all line clearance crews in the country are tied up working to clear storm damage from hurricanes and other significant storm events around the country.

d. Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Topics

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Radakovich expressed his gratitude to Forester Gall and the DPW staff for being proactive on EAB issues and for their excellent response to trees damaged during storm events.

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