

ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
January 6th, 2021

Present: Nicci Sternitzky, Katie Forecki, Amy Forecki, Lorinda Patzner, Becky Rintelmann, Deb Baesemann

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Minutes: Last meeting minutes with no changes
3. Treasurer report: balance changed with ISTF vests \$88.09. Awaiting \$200 from SEED Club.
4. Bee City USA: discussed getting a “one year photo” as never had an opportunity to get group photo with members and village hall representatives due to pandemic. Can then publish article outlining all accomplishments thus far along with upcoming events. Pollinator Week is June 21-27, 2021. Discussed No Mow May idea again— conservation biologist Julia Robson has offered to help design studies for interested students along with Carroll Professor Levine offering advice and equipment for insect counting (pitfalls and black lights). Waukesha County Green Team interested in doing upcoming podcast of No Mow May concept. Signs for yards discussed if able to allow residents to participate (\$120 for 1000 printed)—message sent to village president Palmer asking his advice on how to proceed with village ordinance 266-6D1. Ongoing work on bee ordinance.
5. Tree Sale: Will be using SignUpGenius for tree pick up—verified with Paul from Johnson nursery for April 8, 10, and 14 distribution. Will assure planting instructions attached to e-mail along with what to do if tree can’t be immediately planted.
6. Invasive Species Task Force: working to organize what we have accomplished this far. Started “I’m In” app to help organize planned events for spring.
7. Shrub Sale: ordered for 150 shrubs. Will plan for Earth Day (4/22/21)/Arbor Day(4/30/21) event collaboration. Discussed pricing at \$7.50 each or 3/\$20. Planting instructions completed to include with purchase. Will additionally have sales on-line (reached out to Michelle at village hall to help set-up online ordering) in the event of bad weather for the planned sale on 4/24/20. Discussed other ideas for the Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration—scavenger hunt, tree climbing event, chalk written along path, geocaching.
8. Book Sale: selling Lynn Steiner’s Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin for \$20 each. Have sold 11 books so far.
9. Plant Sale: scheduled for Saturday, June 5th, 2021. Will plan for pre-order for members, EGBA, Indian Hills and any other village related needs. Will be able to place order soon. Almost done with plant list specifications.
10. Community Partnerships: Offered to help with purchasing, design, and planting of the Indian Hills entry corners. Will partner with Garden Club and forester for Arbor Day event at Tonawanda. Assisting Tonawanda in spring with rejuvenation of the Monarch Waystation bed planted there. Girl Scout troop (Katie Williams) spoke with Deb regarding coordination of upcoming events.

11. Book Club: Decided on next books and dates: January 13th—*The Nature Fix*, February 10—*Braiding Sweetgrass*, March 10- *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, April 14 —*The Hidden Life of Trees*. Will take summer hiatus with all other planned events, but keep sending ideas for books to read.
12. Bird City USA: hoping to plan event for each day of the Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb 12-15th, 2021. Friday - Ron Hill discussing the village history of Elm Grove's Bird City designation, past accomplishments, and future goals. Saturday - hoping to coordinate children's program with FOEGL (possible pinecone bird feeder take home and make), Sunday - bird photography or bird call program, Monday - birding and bird conservation program. Each of the four day events would be followed by participation in the bird count with a short explanation of how to use the apps/ website to participate. Reaching out to community members, birding experts for leadership of these programs.
13. Public Space maintenance: Veteran's park, village entrance signs, space at the intersection of WTP and Sunnyslope discussed, along with ongoing work at the village park.
14. Holiday Tree Decorating Idea: great idea proposed for the holidays in 2021 to consider having potted trees that residents can rent or buy to decorate on their steps with contest for village residents to vote on. Trees can then be planted in homeowners yard in spring or the village will plant. Reached out to Johnson Nursery and can get 6 foot potted (#15 pot) Techny Arborvitae for about \$96 each. Will continue to discuss idea and research.
15. Library table: Sarah Muensch has list of books we have done or plan to read for Book Club along with other committee recommendations that she will display at some point in the future if space allows.
16. BEHS/Propelling Students: discussed idea proposed by Zach for wildlife camera (DNR Snapshot Wisconsin), hope to get Elm Grove involvement of students thru school with No Mow May project
17. Next meeting: scheduled for February 3rd at 6:30pm
18. Adjournment: 7:44 pm