

ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes  
March 3rd, 2021

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

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:38 pm, new member introduced
2. Minutes: Last meeting minutes with no changes
3. Treasurer report: No expenses
4. Bee City USA: still planning for a “one year photo” as never had an opportunity to get group photo with members and village hall representatives due to pandemic. Pollinator Week is June 21-27, 2021. Discussed No Mow May idea—will have area near pond that is sectioned off with signage and available as a “study plot”. Girl Scout troops and BEHS teacher have reached out with interest in doing studies. 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). Idea for permanent signage of area was proposed. Ongoing work on bee ordinance which is up for discussion at upcoming Legislative Board meeting (all members approved proposed ordinance that was presented to us via e-mail). New Bee City USA website asking for 3 things prior to renewal - IPM plan, native plant list, and native plant resources—which have all been completed and are being added to the village website upon village approval. Also discussed idea of meeting with businesses to assure neonicotinoid-free plants and seeds being sold.
5. Tree Sale: Will be using SignUpGenius for tree pick up—verified with Paul from Johnson nursery for April 8 (Becky, Anne, Nicci), 10 (Becky, Amy, Deb, Katie, Nicci), and 13 (Becky, Nicci) distribution. Will assure planting instructions attached to e-mail along with what to do if tree can't be immediately planted. Reminders automatically sent from SignUpGenius. Will reserve library window in August for next year's sale. Looking to choose trees for next year's sale early so that we can mark examples at the Elm Grove Park during the Earth/Arbor Day event and publicize with other events.
6. Invasive Species Task Force: Started “I'm In” app to help organize planned events for spring. Will have garlic mustard pull organized for the Earth/Arbor Day event from 10-11am. Will resume Sunday meetings at the park once weather improves. Considering plans for large fall buckthorn event as best time to treat stumps. Discussed our need for much better equipment for buckthorn removal.
7. Shrub Sale & Earth/Arbor Day celebration: Earth Day (4/22/21)/Arbor Day(4/30/21) event collaboration at the village park on April 24th from 11-2pm. Events include: garlic mustard pull (10-11am), Craft and Storytime in conjunction with FOEGL at 11am, Hoppe Tree service Kids Climb, Pond Path Pilgrimage chalking around the pond, a geocache event that will run from 4/22-4/30, and informational booths. Have already sold 141 of the 150 ordered shrubs online (awaiting payment on some) which will be distributed at the April 24th event. Planting instructions completed to include with purchase. Will have informational booths for Beautification Committee, Village forester, SEED Club, ISTF, Shrub sale, Elm Grove Green Team, and Waste Not, LLC.

8. Prescribed burn: Meg planning to make movie of the burn! Will coordinate with Elm Grove Green Team and Girl Scout troop to clean up around the pond before and after the burn.
9. Publicity: Discussed methods of increasing visibility of our programs-articles written for Village publications, cable channel 25, village website, large banner signs at corner of Legion and Juneau, fact sheets online and printed.
10. Book Sale: selling Lynn Steiner's Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin for \$20 each. Have sold 11 books so far.
11. Plant Sale: scheduled for Saturday, June 5th, 2021. Will plan for pre-order for members, EGBA, Indian Hills and any other village related needs. Both pre-order (20 flats plus 6 plants) and plant sale order (70 flats) have been placed. Comprehensive list of plant selection requirements has been completed. Will be sure it gets on village website in advance of sale. Library window reserved for June 1-5th.
12. Community Partnerships: Offered to help with purchasing, design, and planting of the Indian Hills entry corners. Assisting Tonawanda parents and Girl Scout troop in spring with rejuvenation of the Monarch Waystation bed planted there.
13. Book Club: Decided on next books and dates for remainder of 2021: March 10- *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, April 14- *The Hidden Life of Trees*, Sept 15- *7th Generation Earth Ethics*, Oct 20th- *Our Native Bees*, Nov 17th- *Second Nature*. Will take summer hiatus, but keep sending ideas for books to read via the Bookclubz app. Bookmarks made to have displayed at the library and included in the geocache for Earth/Arbor Day event.
14. Bird City USA: Despite the bitter cold, the event was a success. Connection made with avid Elm Grove birder and will be meeting with her to discuss how we can help Elm Grove attain the High Flyer designation. Will also see how our group can help with the World Migratory Bird Day event on May 8th.
15. Public Space maintenance: Veteran's park, village entrance signs, space at the intersection of WTP and Sunnyslope are all spaces we can help maintain, along with ongoing work at the village park. Will coordinate with the Elm Grove Green Team to pick up around the ponds before and after the prescribed burn.
16. History of the Elm Grove Park - discussed compilation of history of the park going back to at least the 1940's. Working with interested residents to compile information. Discussed methods to help visitors identify tree species within the park (using QR codes, etc.).
17. ATC Pollinator Habitat Grant: Anne presented the American Transmission Company grant programs. Have reached out to village regarding spaces available to apply for pollinator grant.
18. Next meeting: scheduled for April 7th at 6:30pm in the Park View Room
19. Adjournment: 8:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nicci Sternitzky  
chair