

ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
August 2nd, 2023

Present: Katie Forecki, James, Lange, Becky Rintelmann, Nicci Sternitzky

Guests: Stacy Barry-Coffey, Rachel Corwin, Richard

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:29 pm.
2. Minutes: Last meeting minutes with no changes.
3. Treasurer report: totals reported to group. Changes over past month—purchased HDMI cord for \$23.09, Monarch Cookies for \$20. Sold 6 mosquito dunks for \$2 each—after tax was \$11.43.
4. Bird City WI: next meeting for Birders of the Grove is August 14th at 0900 in the Park View Room. Discussed Lights Out migration timing and ordinance, website of egbirders.org, and Instagram of [@birdersofthegrove](https://www.instagram.com/birdersofthegrove).
5. Bee City USA: Nearly every event we sponsor and hold is in support of this designation. Application renewal due 2/28/24.
6. Book Club: Four book clubs next season—Sept 20th - Dan Egan's The Devil's Element, Nov 15th - Michael Pollan's The Botany of Desire, Jan 24th - Josh Tickell's Kiss the Ground, and March 13th - Richard Louv's Last Child in the Woods. Will still be wine and cheese events.
7. Invasive Species Task Force: Have 44 people signed up to receive weekly emails. Beautification Committee has official membership in SWISC. Discussed doing more work at Veteran's Park in the upcoming weeks, the formation of a "Friends of Veteran's Park" group, and professional advice on removing invasives and encouraging more native plants.
8. Lecture series: 2023-24 lecture series complete. Need to consider a back-up for possible cancellation. Becky reviewed microphone and speaker options she researched. Group agreed that recording lectures is helpful for those that cannot attend.
9. National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat Certification: Have completed 30/30 points for our 2023 recertification. Wauwatosa recently registered. Working to mentor Brookfield and Pewaukee. Discussed other communities and how to best encourage them to work on the certification process.
10. Mayors' Monarch Pledge: our village president took the pledge on 3/8/23 committing to 24 of the 29 actions. Have completed 17 of them, but the remaining 7 will take a lot more time and energy. Packet with Monarch cookie from La Tarte bakery in Tosa, a jar of Amy's honey, the Mayors' Monarch pledge booklet, and a letter from the committee delivered to each of the trustees and village manager.
11. Monarch Milkweed Map: goal is 200 dots by the end of the year, we are currently at 175 dots. Brainstormed ways to increase with milkweed giveaways and sales. Consider High Interest Day monarch program in 2024, with milkweed giveaway.
12. Fall tree sale: reviewed selections and order form—ready to go live with 12 pre-settlement choices. Have had 14 trees ordered so far. Library window installed today. Discussed ideas to help reach our goal of selling 132 trees (which would put the committee at 5000 natives into the community!).
13. Other business: Stacy Barry Coffey discussed collaboration on upcoming village projects that are in alignment with the committee's mission to increase native plantings. Group will share booth at upcoming Cruisin' The Grove event.
14. Next meeting: scheduled for September 6th at 6:30pm in the Park View Room
15. Adjournment: 7:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nicci Sternitzky
chairperson