

Village of Belgium Tree Board – June 1, 2009

The following media were noticed relative to this meeting per the Open Meeting Law of the State of WI: The Ozaukee Press, Port Washington; The Milwaukee Journal (Ozaukee and Washington Desk); The Sheboygan Press, Sheboygan. In addition, a copy of the agenda was also posted at the following locations within the Village of Belgium: Belgium Village Hall, Belgium Post Office, Port Washington State Bank (Belgium Office), Harris Bank (Belgium Office) and Belgium Hardware and Beverage.

Call to Order, Roll Call, Establishment of a Quorum:

Chairperson Rich Howells called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Present were Tree Board Members Anna Krier, Tom Peterik, Roger Rachuba and Village Board Trustee Jeff Ritter (7:30 p.m.). A quorum was declared established. Absent were Sandra St. Peter, Dianna Otto, and Kevin Wirtz.

Open Meeting Law Compliance Check

Yes, this meeting is in compliance.

Pledge to Flag, Moment of Silence

Announcements:

None

Action Items:

- **Minutes Approval – April 6, 2009** – A motion was made by Rich Howells and seconded by Roger Rachuba to approve the minutes as presented. The Tree Board was polled: ayes – Howells, Krier, Peterik, Rachuba; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.
- **Approval of Fertilizer Purchase** - Kevin Wirtz was not in attendance. No action was taken. This item will be on the August agenda for approval.

The Tree Board left the Village Hall at 6:39 p.m. for site visits as noted on the agenda. The Tree board returned to Village Hall at 7:29 p.m.

Jeff Ritter entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

- **Well #1, 651 Park Street - Ash Tree** - The tree was viewed and appears to be a late starter this year. At the time of viewing the tree looked healthy. No action was taken.
- **Community Park Tree Trimming** – An ash tree on the east side of the playground was viewed. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cecil stated that the neighbors to the east of the park recently removed two trees. One of which

was shading the ash tree in question. The members of the Tree Board felt the tree looked healthy, but would benefit from having the dead wood removed.

- A motion was made by Tom Peterik and seconded by Roger Rachuba to keep the tree, but have the dead branches removed. The Tree Board was polled: ayes – Howells, Krier, Peterik, Rachuba; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.
- **Evergreens near Village Hall Removal/Replacement** – The evergreen trees north of the Village Hall were viewed. A motion was made by Rich Howells and seconded by Anna Krier to remove the two eastern most trees and replace them in the fall. The Tree Board was polled: ayes – Howells, Krier, Peterik, Rachuba; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.
- **Chestnut Street Tree Relocation and/or Removal** - The trees were viewed and Chairman Howells pointed out fungus on 2 of the trees. He also noted that the northern most tree drops fruit on the sidewalk. Chairman Howells indicated the Department of Public Works has difficulty removing snow and sweeping the street with the trees being overgrown into the street. Discussion ensued. Concern was expressed with removing the trees when not all options have been explored.

Chairman Howells is going to prune the trees. Tree Board Member Peterik and Rachuba will look up information on the fungus. Tree Board Member Peterik will email absent Member Otto to inquire if her Master Gardener classes would have any information on the fungus. Member Rachuba has a contact to whom he will email pictures of the fungus.

The information will be presented at the August meeting. A motion was made by Rich Howells and seconded by Roger Rachuba to discuss the information and make a decision at the next meeting. The Tree Board was polled: ayes – Howells, Krier, Peterik, Rachuba; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.

- **Lake Hills South Park Tree Status** – The trees at the park were viewed. It was noted that the southeast corner of the park has 3 spruce trees that will need fertilizer spikes. The trees were starting to drop needles on the lowest branches.
- **Newly planted trees at 946 Jer-Mar Road - Water Tower #2** - The 33 trees were the remaining trees after the April 25th Arbor Day Celebration. Tree Board Chairman Howells planted the trees. It was noted the trees need to be staked, mulched, marked and protected. Member Rachuba will mulch the

trees. Tree protectors will be looked into to prevent wildlife from attempting to eat the saplings.

- **Tree Staking of newly planted trees at 946 Jer-Mar Road** - A motion was made by Rich Howells and seconded by Tom Peterik to authorize Chairman Howells to purchase dowels, twine and marking tape as necessary for the trees at Water Tower #2. The Tree Board was polled: ayes – Howells, Krier, Peterik, Rachuba; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.
- **2010 Budget** - Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cecil presented the 2009 budget and five years of expenditures to assist the Tree Board in preparing their budget. Chairman Howells will bring a proposal to the next meeting.
- **1 year and 5 year Forestry Plan** - Chairman Howells discussed what he found in the Tree Board ordinance. He would not only like to do the required 1 year report, but also a 5 year report for long term planning. These plans will also assist the Tree Board in budgetary and grant planning. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cecil is to email a copy of the Tree Survey results to Member Rachuba and burn a copy of the results for Chairman Howells. Furthermore, she volunteered to request Urban Forestry plans and reports from communities across the state of Wisconsin. Member Rachuba will create a website proposal to update the Tree Board's site. He will have it prepared for the August meeting. The schedule of Tree Board meetings was discussed. This item is to be placed on the October agenda for discussion.
- **Street Tree Replacement Listing Update** – This item will be discussed in detail with possible action at the August meeting. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cecil will continue to add requests to the Street Tree Replacement Listing and this item will be placed on the August agenda.

Miscellaneous Matters:

- **Tree City USA Street Signs and Plaque** – Currently, the Village of Belgium has two street signs from 1993 when Tree City USA was first earned. There are 6 entrances into the Village of Belgium. A motion was made by Rich Howells and seconded by Roger Rachuba to authorize Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cecil to purchase four additional Tree City USA street signs which are to be placed at each entrance to the Village. The Tree Board was polled: ayes – Howells, Krier, Peterik, Rachuba; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.
- **Urban Forestry Grant Information** – Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cecil noted to the Tree Board that the urban forestry grants having currently been put back into the State budget by the Joint Finance Committee and now await

Governor Doyle's approval. She has been in contact with State Senator Glen Grothman regarding the status as well as Kim Sebastian from the DNR.

- **Length of Chairman's Term** – An update was given by Deputy Clerk-Treasurer on the action that the Village Board sent the Tree Board's request to the Village Attorney to craft language to make the requested changes.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Rich Howells and seconded by Anna Krier to adjourn the Tree Board at 9:04 p.m. The Tree Board was polled: ayes – Howells, Krier, Peterik, Rachuba; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie L. Cecil
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer