

Poland Municipal Forest Board Meeting – Poland Village Hall – March 26, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by the chair

Attendees Present:

Bob Elias

Chris Graff

Sam Moffie, Council Representative

Dr. Ian Renne

Mark Thompson

Elinor Zedaker, Chair

Absent Excused:

James Brammer

Quorum present – yes

Approval of February Forest Board Minutes;

A motion was made by Bob Elias to approve the February minutes. Sam Moffie seconded the motion, all approved. There were no corrections suggested.

Business:

Money received – Moffie announced that we received \$ 5,000.00 as an advance from the levy.

Garlic mustard pull – Ian Renne mentioned that he has advertised the event at Y.S.U. He also expressed that the date may be a bit early because of the harsh winter we have experienced. Elinor Zedaker showed the group the poster that is being used to advertise the event. She also announced that Mary from the “Green Team” would

provide bags and gloves for the event. Becker Funeral Homes will provide bottled water for the volunteers.

Mauthe Bridge – Moffie stated that funding for the bridge was approved by Village Council. Mark Thompson said by May 24, M.S. Consultants will have design ideas for us to approve and the design will come as close to replicating what we have now but will do so by using contemporary materials. Elias questioned again whether we need to address handicap accessibility to the bridge. It was decided we do not because of the land being designated as “primitive forest”.

EnviroScience – An informal gathering took place with some board members present. The meeting lasted about 3 ½ hours and was very educational. The main topic dealt with the water shed dynamics and the erosion issues largely due to the excessive development and building over the years on the land surrounding the forest. Thompson stated we should have the final report in the next few weeks. Zedaker suggested the reading of the report should be publicized to give people the opportunity to attend.

Butler Trail Box Culvert – EnviroScience recommends replacing the twin small round culverts with a larger box culvert. Thompson brought up the issue of the gas line being exposed in the area. He spoke with a supervisor in Akron and was assured the gas line issue will be moved up on the priority list. Renne expressed his concern of Butler Trail being properly maintained to allow accessibility for EMS vehicles.

Volunteer Work Crews – Work continues to open up roads and trail ways from fallen trees. Work is being done to prepare Blue Bell Trail for car traffic and the Mill Creek MetroParks trolley. Logs are being placed along the creek bank to serve as guardrails.

Public Comments:

A resident had concerns about the EnviroScience report. He also announced an upcoming nature walk through the forest on May 2nd.

Another resident would like the bridge design to be presented to the public and be posted on social media.

Other Business:

Thompson expressed concern about controlling the deer population. He feels we need to begin educating the public of the damage to the flowers and the native trees.

Thompson also brought in examples of signage for markings on the interior trails. The cost would be between \$6 - \$9 per trail. He also stated that we have a donor willing to pay for the signs and no money would come from the budget.

Thompson's last topic concerned invasive species and the need to act ASAP. He is going to assemble information for educational purposes.

Motion to Adjourn:

Moffie made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Renne.

Next Meeting:

April 23, 2019