

Poland Municipal Forest Board Meeting – Poland Village Hall – April 23, 2019

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

Attendees Present:

James Brammer

Bob Elias

Chris Graff

Sam Moffie, Council Representative

Dr. Ian Renne

Mark Thompson

Elinor Zedaker, Chair

Quorum present – yes

Approval of March Forest Board Minutes;

Thompson made a motion to approve the March minutes, Moffie seconded the motion. The motion was passed five to one.

A discussion was held about how much detail should be included into the board's minutes about public comment. James Brammer suggested that no public comments be entered into the board's minutes.

Business:

Zedaker thanked Rennee and all that attended the garlic mustard pull on April 6th.

Moffie announced that the Forest Board received \$5,000 of the allotted tax revenue, village council allocated that \$2,500 of the money is going toward Drake's Run culvert repairs that will be done by the street department. There was a discussion about the funds giving annually from BFI and where the money is and will be spent.

Council passed a motion that firewood is to be moved off the trails and placed at the College Street entrance for residents to utilize.

Thompson reported that we are waiting on an update on the Mauthe Bridge design project.

Thompson stated that the board should be hearing from EnviroScience in the following weeks regarding the official findings of the stream report. A public meeting will be held regarding the report and will be made known.

Thompson said that the debris has been removed from the Butler Trail Culvert. A gas line has been exposed due to erosion. Dominion has been contacted and a field agent is supposed to visit the site to determine what course of action should take place. A

hazard potential has been created by visitors placing boards and logs to cross over the ditch. The street dept. is planning on putting a temporary patch over the open creek.

Thompson noted his appreciation of all the work that has been done in the forest from all the volunteers in the community. Thompson reported that work has been done along Blue Bell Trail and mentioned many trails have high risk trees that need attention. Many of the ash trees are snapping in half and creating problems throughout the forest.

Public Comments:

Two people from the audience announced that there will be nature hikes in the forests in the near future.

Other Business:

Renne made a motion to add public comments from the March meeting to the April minutes, Chris Graff seconded. Four said aye two said no, the motion passed. The following comments were submitted by Renne:

- Graff and Renne agreed to develop a Forest Board Facebook page, which would not allow for comments by anyone, to facilitate the dissemination of information to the public – the EnviroScience report was specifically mentioned as an example what might be disseminated.
- Poland residents Laurie LaPlante and Patti Wanat expressed concern regarding the process of permit approval. Renne reiterated their concerns, stating that the current approval process only requires Chairman/woman approval of permits. This led to a long discussion, where Renne pointed out that, under the current process, many approved actions may not be embraced by the board, and may occur unbeknownst to the Board approved following a request for action (e.g., anything requiring machinery, signage posting, and marking, large rock placement in Yellow Creek, etc.), regardless of whether the citizen(s) in question are or are not affiliated with the Board, Council, Street Department, or any other entity. No motion was proposed by him.
- Poland resident Lauren Schroeder handed out to the Board two documents: 1) an illustrated essay on stream flow through an alluvial flood plain and 2) a citizen's report on pollution in Yellow Creek and the effect of PMF on Yellow Creek water quality.

Renne suggested that a motion be made to modify the permits and waiver application. After a group discussion it was suggested to Renne that he contact the Village Solicitor about the process of amending a policy.

Moffie made a motion to excuse Graff early from the meeting at 9:14 for a work-related issue, Renne seconded the motion, all said aye.

Thompson discussed the proposed signs for the forest with the board. Moffie made a motion to approve the signs in the forest, Thompson seconded the motion, three said aye two said no. The motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn:

Brammer made a motion to adjourn, Moffie seconded the motion, all said aye.

Next Meeting:

May 28th, 2019