

## **Poland Municipal Forest Board Meeting – Virtual Platform– March 23, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by the chair

### **Board Members Present:**

James Brammer

Bob Elias

Chris Graff, *Village Council Representative*

Dr. Ian Renne

BJ Sulka- *Excused*

Mark Thompson

Elinor Zedaker, *Chair*

**Quorum:** Yes

**Approval of February 23, 2021 Forest Board Minutes:** Graff made a motion to approve the minutes, Thompson seconded, all said AYE.

**Finance Report:** Elias reported; there is 39,314 (including \$5K from the levy) in the forest budget. An estimated \$15,091 is from the projected 2021 budget. Graff made a motion to approve the report, Thompson seconded, all said aye.

**SB 310 Updates:** TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS - Thompson reported the fissure on Blue Bell is getting bigger. Envirosience stated that we will have to acquire permits in advance of any work. The Army Corps of Engineers was contacted to discuss the process.

Renne asked if composite boards would be better than wood boards on the trails. Thompson commented that the cost of composite is up more than 23% at this time, and is too great a cost to complete our task. Treated yellow pine would work. Bridge replacement and construction in the forest was discussed. Rammer has requested utility poles for the Beaver Dam bridge construction. Thompson talked about the scope of work and the future timelines.

COMFORT STATION - Brammer discussed the comfort stations, and determined that the pit style, thus requiring no electricity, is the better idea. A unit is estimated to cost approximately \$23K. A composting unit would require an electric fan action for the contents. Graff agrees with Brammer regarding the pit style. If a source of electricity is possibly supplied to the forest in the future, he suggested the wires should be buried underground.

**Other Business:** The group discussed the GARLIC MUSTARD PULL & STREAM CLEAN UP and decided on Saturday, April 10th for the date. Renne made a motion to have the Garlic Mustard Pull on April 10th from 9:00 am to noon, Graff seconded, all said aye. Zedaker has contacted the Green Team for supplies. Renee will provide fliers and information to his YSU students to volunteer in the forest. Information will be posted on the website.

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Renne spoke about the new DEER EXCLOSURE. He will have a location at the next meeting. The board discussed possible locations. Eagle Scouts are interested in building the enclosure. Location and sketches will be provided. Thompson suggested extending the exiting enclosure where that is an open canopy. Renee thought Bluebell Trail could be a possible site where there are canopy gaps.

Brammer told us that Zedaker was contacted by Mr. Hildebrand who is a volunteer with Boy Scout Camp Stambaugh about a delivery of 18"-24" saplings or whips that are being donated by First Energy. There are approximately 150 that can be ordered for the Poland Forest. Rammer will work with Hildebrand to specify the species, native to Ohio, best suited for the forest. Boy Scouts are on board to work on the planting.

COLLEGE LANE PARKING LOT needs attention. Thompson and Elias found prices for the parking lot stone. The estimated price is at least \$1000 but could reach \$1,400. Graff made a motion to order limestone for the College St. parking lot not to exceed \$1,400, Elias seconded, all said aye.

Graff stated concern about a dangerous tree in the forest that is leaning and hung up in another tree. Brammer said he would look into it and report back.

Elias asked if we have a storage room for Forest Board records. The records are kept upstairs in the Village Hall.

Graff suggested the Board set up a time to meet in the forest to view various projects.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Adjourn:** Since there was no further business to come before the board, Renne made a motion to adjourn, Graff seconded, and all said AYE.

Next Forest Board meeting: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 7:00 pm to be held virtually.

