

Poland Municipal Forest Board Meeting May 25, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chair.

Board Members Present:

James Brammer
Chris Graff, *Village Council Representative*
Dr. Ian Renne
Elinor Zedaker, *Chair*

Board Members Excused:

Bob Elias
BJ Sulka
Mark Thompson

Quorum: Yes

Approval of April 27, 2021 Forest Board Minutes: Graff made a motion to approve the minutes, Zedaker seconded, all said AYE

Approval of May 6, 2021 minutes of Forest Board Special Meeting: Graff made a motion to approve the minutes, Zedaker seconded, all said AYE. Renne expressed concern that money set aside for trail maintenance could be diverted into the bank stabilization project. Renne stated that he thought we prioritized the projects in the last meeting. The projects were not prioritized by the Board action.

Zedaker and Graff agreed to withdraw the original motion. Graff made a new motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting and include Renne's comments. Zedaker seconded the new motion, all said AYE.

Finance Report: Expenditures: \$3,745.54 to IT Solutions; \$850.63 for Village payroll costs; \$603.85 to reimburse Mark Thompson for expenditures for forest work.

The unencumbered balance is \$29,122.90. Graff made a motion to approve the finance report, Renne seconded, all said AYE.

Forest Foundation Financial Support for the Proposed Projects: The Forest Foundation has approved an allocation of \$57,000 in support of the Forest Board projects for trail infrastructure and bank stabilization. Renne asked who applies for permits, the Village or EnviroScience? The firm that gets the bid will apply for the permits. Zedaker has written a letter of appreciation to the Forest Foundation Board.

Recommendation to Poland Village Council to approve the Forest improvement projects: Bluebell Stream Bank Stabilization, Trail Infrastructure, and Comfort Station. These projects will be funded by the Ohio S.B 310 for \$100,000 and by the Poland Forest Foundation Board for \$57,000.

Graff made a motion to approve the recommendation, Brammer seconded, three said AYE and one said no, the motion carried and the action will move forward.

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Report Updates:

Beaver Dam Bridge: Graff reported that the tiers have been built and more construction is due to take place soon.

Invasive Species: Brammer reported that Davey Resource Group (DRG) has sent a proposal and they are prepared to start work. We will need a signed agreement from the Village in order to set a work date.

Deer Enclosures: The Eagle Scout candidate is awaiting the scout council approval for the project. Elias is the FB coordinator for Eagle Scout projects. Renne has suggested new deer enclosure locations and is also willing to meet with Scouts to determine a plan and scope of work.

Comfort Station: Brammer discussed the cost of maintenance and extras we may want with the Board. One vendor has held to their original price; the other raised the price.

Other Business:

The Board discussed the following: vandalism to the tree stakes near Thacher Trail, the forest web site information, and the intended Mahoning County mosquito spraying July 17th. Brammer agreed to investigate the Forest Board meetings past minutes about the mosquito spraying. The spraying will be on the FB June meeting agenda.

Public Comments: A resident thanked the Board for their efforts on trail maintenance. It was suggested that the Board use the website to educate the public about the tree covers and culling the deer over-population since that are eating all the vegetation. The potential for a doggy waste bag dispenser and disposal in the Forest needs further information.

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

Next Forest Board meeting: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm, Village Hall.