

Poland Municipal Forest Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 25, 2022, Village Hall

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

Board Members Present:

James Brammer

Bob Elias

Chris Graff, *Council Representative*

B.J Sulka

Dr. Ian Renne

Mark Thompson

Elinor Zedaker, *Chair*

Absent Excused: n/a

Quorum: Yes

Approval of November 23rd, Forest Board Minutes: Sulka made a motion to accept the minutes, Thompson seconded, all said AYE.

Financial Report: Elias reported that the Forest Board account has an unencumbered of \$21,706.91. Elias then presented the proposed 2022 Poland Municipal Forest budget. An itemized sheet containing cost estimates for each aspect of the Forest was presented. The Board discussed the different cost associations and how throughout the year the costs may change in each category. Renne expressed his concern about invasive species spraying and asked that other methods be considered. Thompson commented to the Board that the price of building materials will most likely go up as the year continues. Elias made a motion that the Board accept the proposed 2022 estimated budget, Graff seconded, all said AYE.

ODNR: Thompson reported that the paperwork is ready to submit to ODNR. He remarked to the Board that the comfort station information needs to be gathered and submitted to ODNR as soon as possible.

Comfort Station: Brammer stated that he would call for more pricing and have information ready for the next Board meeting to discuss and reach a decision. Thompson said he would call to find out how to properly demo the current facility and inquire about the proper permits.

Doggie Waste Stations: Graff reported that the dog waste stations have been received and are ready to install. As soon as the ground thaws, we can install them.

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Forest Maps: Thompson reported that more maps have been ordered. The color of the maps in the last order were not bright enough. Brammer said he would reach out to Rob Dunham to talk about the Q reader for the entrances to the forest.

Mauthe Bridge Recognition: Thompson stated that he has located a large bolder for the Bridge Recognition Plaque. We are waiting for the weather to be more favorable for proper equipment and be used to move the very large bolder.

Permits and Waivers Form: Zedaker mentioned a revision of the Permits and Waivers Form. It will be presented to the FB when ready. Renne questioned the Board about charging for events in the Forest. Zedaker thought that it isn't up the Board to change the rules if they are applicable in the Village. We will ask for clarification.

Other Business: Graff talked about the Lions Club, they asked if the Forest would accept a bench as a gift from them with their name on it. The Board discussed and decided that we were not placing commemorative benches in the Forest at this time. A few other organizations and locations were suggested that the club could contact for the donation of a bench.

Elias remarked that he observed four coyotes in the forest chasing a fawn recently.

Public Comment: A resident spoke about the charging a fee for events in the Forest. He wants more discussion from the Board and to move it to the Council.

A discussion was held by the Board about charging for educational programs. Renne ask the Board if we would be in support of changing policy with Council. Zedaker commented that if a fee cannot be charged, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization could request a donation from the participants. Other opportunities to cover costs include the organization seeking grants, an underwriter, and individual donors.

Adjourn: There was no other business to discuss for the evening, Graff made a motion to adjourn, Renne seconded, all said AYE.

The next Board meeting will be February 22, 2022, at 7:00pm.