

Poland Municipal Forest Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 22, 2022, Village Hall

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

Board Members Present:

James Brammer

Chris Graff, *Council Representative*

B.J Sulka

Dr. Ian Renne

Mark Thompson

Elinor Zedaker, *Chair*

Excused: Bob Elias

Quorum: Yes

Approval of February 22nd, Forest Board Minutes: Sulka made a motion to accept the minutes, Graff seconded, all said AYE.

Financial Report: Elias sent a financial update. Zedaker reported that the Forest Board account has an unencumbered balance of \$23,529.98. The only expenditure was \$297.50 for printing of forest maps. We received \$1,000.0 from levy proceeds. We will be receive additional monies from the levy in March.

ODNR: Thompson reported that ODNR has accepted and approved our projects. They have been forwarded to the control board, and funds will be released accordingly. Thompson researched additional information regarding comfort stations. He got information and costs for different units. Thompson itemized some of the costs for permits, demo of the existing structure, and site prep. There will be an estimated difference of 10K that will not covered by the grant. The Board discussed options for paying the difference, site location, and unit design choices.

Comfort Station: Brammer stated he would contact CXT and get information for the Board and possibly set up a site visit.

First Energy Community Tree Program: Brammer spoke about the tree program and explained we could get tree saplings for the forest to plant through First Energy at no cost. The Board discussed and agreed to go forward and acquire up to 500 saplings. A volunteer event will be held to plant the trees. More information will be made available at the next meeting.

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Forest Garlic Mustard Pull and Stream Clean-Up: The event will be held on April 16th. The Green Team will provide items to help with the cleanup. Renne will contact the YSU students about volunteering. More invasive species have been added to the list to be pulled out. Zedaker asked Renne to pull samples and instruct the volunteers on what to look for. Graff and Becker Funeral Homes will be donating bottled water for the event.

Village Council's Request to Forest Board: Zedaker explained the request from Village Council to the Forest Board about the issue of permitting an organization to charge a fee for their programs while in the Poland Municipal Forest. Decisions and recommendation regarding the Poland Forest begin with this Board. The Board had a lengthy discussion about the matter before a motion was put forth. Everyone on the Board is in favor of educational programs in the Forest. It was decided this is a legal matter that needs input from the Village Solicitor. Such information needs to be considered before a recommendation is made by this Board to Council. Thompson made a motion to ask the Village Solicitor to decide about charging for educational programs in the Poland Municipal Forest by either non-profit or for-profit organizations. Sulka seconded, there were four AYE's and one NAY from Renne. The motion passed and will be forwarded.

Other Business: Renne asked about the boardwalk project and monies to fund the construction. Thompson commented that we are waiting for better weather to begin. He noted the funding for this project is part of the funding approved by the Forest Foundation and some from our budget.

Sulka received the new Forest maps, and commented that the color is much brighter. Web Master Dunham emailed a QR code that works as a direct link to the forest map. The QR needs to be printed and laminated, then placed at the trail entrances.

Public Comment by Villages Residents: A village resident suggested that we make a small video about planting trees and put it on the website and made a comment about fees and charges for the pavilion rentals.

Public Comment by Non Village Resident: (A request and approval is made in advance of the meeting.) The guest spoke about the educational programs in the forest. She commented about how beneficial the programs are to her and her family and asked the Board to support charging a fee by the organizer.

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

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

