

Poland Municipal Forest Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 22, 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

Elinor Zedaker, *Chair*

Absent Excused: Mark Thompson

Quorum: Yes

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

Financial Report: Elias reported that the Forest Board account has an unencumbered balance of \$23,529. Also, \$15,134 is to be received from Forest levy tax revenue. Graff made a motion to accept the report, Sulka seconded, all said AYE. There is an invoice for \$3,745.00 owed to Tailored IT Solutions for work on our website and design. Thompson previously suggested that this bill is paid through the Thompson Family Foundation donation. After brief discussion, the board agreed to this suggestion, no one was opposed. This will be forwarded to the Village Fiscal Officer.

Volunteer Work: Volunteers helped clear debris from multiple culverts along Butler Trail. Large concrete sections were lifted out of the creek to increase water flow. The large boulder to be placed at the Indian Trail entrance for the Mauthe Bridge bronze plaque has been lifted out of the thawed ground. It will be moved as soon as possible.

ODNR: As reported at the last meeting, ODNR moved the forest projects proposal to the Ohio State Controlling Board (OSCB) for their approval to then release \$98,000 of the \$100,000 previously approved in the State budget. (ODNR received \$2,000 for administration of the fund.) The OSCB will meet in the first week of April. Renne suggested an alternative plan for stream mitigation. He suggested a creek shoot merge that would divert the stream and direct water away from the eroding bank.

Comfort Station: Brammer spoke about the new comfort station. A discussion was held about the details of the comfort station and the site. An on-site visit by the comfort station company will be scheduled to work out the details of the project. Brammer will set up the meeting

Pg. 2 of 2

Poland Municipal Forest Board Meeting Tuesday, March 22, 2022, Village Hall.

First Energy Community Tree Program: Brammer stated that 400 saplings are on order and will be delivered to the forest for Arbor Day. There will be a volunteer day April 30th for anyone wanting to plant trees. There is also a volunteer day on Friday the 29th that will include some First Energy employees from the Forestry Department. Stakes and blue sleeves are on order for the saplings as well.

Forest Garlic Mustard Pull and Stream Clean-Up: The event will be held on April 16th from 9am to Noon at the College St. entrance. Zedaker contacted the Mahoning County Green Team to supply trash bags, gloves and grabbers for the volunteers. Graff and Becker Funeral Homes will provide bottles to drinking water. Renne spoke about the event and the decline in the mustard seed in the forest.

Village Council's Request to Forest Board: This is currently under advisement.

Other Business: Village Engineer Gary Diorio from MS Consultants worked on the proposal information for the Village to be awarded over \$660k to replace the Poland Manor (Graffiti) Bridge and the sewer line under the bridge.

\$150k has been approved and sent to the Village for development of a walking trail near the Poland Manor (Graffiti) Bridge along Baird Mitchell Field and connect to the library.

Public Comment: Mr. Hockenberry, Poland School Superintendent, introduced himself and invited all to a community breakfast gathering Tuesday, April 5th at Dobbins school building for an informative meeting and discussion about the future of Poland Schools facilities.

A resident announced there would be a flower walk May 7th with a naturalist. He also spoke his opinion about streamflow and stream bank erosion along Bluebell Trail.

A resident mentioned there are many trees behind her house along Yellow Creek that are dying. They are concerned it may be from so much flooding and ask if there is anything that we can do to help.

A resident asked if the stream mitigation project set forth is a done deal or can it be changed?

A resident spoke her opinion about water flow and stream bank erosion. She would like to hear alternate ideas for mitigation.

The Board discussed the public comments.

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

The next Board meeting: Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 7:00pm Village Hall.

