

VILLAGE OF FRANKFORT
MINUTES OF THE TREE BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 15, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jim Holland, Chairman Pro-Tem, called the Tree Board Committee meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. on September 15, 2010, at the Village Administration Building, 432 W. Nebraska Street, Frankfort.

ROLL CALL

Committee members in attendance included Mayor Jim Holland, Supt. of Public Works Terry Kestel, Building Department grade/landscape inspector Rob Gabriel, Julie Beeson and Paul Nicol. Others in attendance were Trustee Cindy Heath, Administrator Jerry Ducay and George Derkovitz from the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (August 12, 2010)

Supt. Terry Kestel made a motion (#1), seconded by Member Gabriel, to approve the Tree Board minutes of August 12, 2009, as presented. The motion was approved by all present.

EMERALD ASH BORER PRESENTATION

George Derkovitz from the Illinois Department of Agriculture provided a PowerPoint presentation and informational pamphlets to the committee members on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

In his presentation, Mr. Derkovitz discussed signs and symptoms of the disease and insecticide options used by professionals and homeowners for controlling the Emerald Ash Borer. He noted the EAB can be easily spread through firewood, which should be purchased locally from a known source and used up during the winter months. He further noted that the State of Illinois is under state and federal quarantine, which restricts the movement of ash products inside and outside the state. The committee was encouraged to visit the State of Illinois' website on the Emerald Ash Borer, www.IllinoisEAB.com.

TREE PLANTING REPORT

Mr. Kestel provided information to the committee on the number of parkway trees the Village has planted in the community from 1999 to date. He stated a total of 236 trees were planted under the former Baby Tree Program, which ended in 2006. An additional 237 parkway trees have been planted since 2007 under the Replacement Tree Program. Mr. Kestel indicated an additional 36 trees were earmarked for planting this fall, which will bring the total number of tree plantings to 509.

OTHER BUSINESS

New Tree Board member Paul Nicol shared several tree-related topics of discussion with the committee.

He recommended that trees not be planted during the summer months, only during March to early May and after August. Supt. Kestel noted that this is current Village policy.

Mr. Nicol also suggested that a diverse selection of native trees be planted in the Village, due to the many benefits of such a policy. Supt. Kestel indicated that diversification in planting various species of trees is already taking place in the community and is reinforced via the Village's Landscape Ordinance.

A third suggestion to set aside an acre or two of Village property for a small nursery for the Village's future needs was also discussed. Staff noted consideration would be given to this idea going forward.

Member Nicol mentioned that articles relating to trees could be included in the Village's quarterly newsletter to educate residents on tree care. Mayor Holland expressed interest in this suggestion for future newsletter publications.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Heath made a motion (#2), seconded by Member Beeson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion was approved by all present.