

MEETING OF THE POLAND FOREST BOARD
Tuesday, January 24, 2017
Poland Village Hall

PRESENT: James Brammer, Bob Elias, Frank Krygowski, Joe Mazur, Beth Queen, Mark Thompson, Elinor Zedaker

GUESTS: Randy Jones, Gordon Longmuir, Lauren Schroeder (Forest Foundation); Doug Wittenauer, Bob & Allison Dunham

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 PM.

The minutes of the December 27, 2016 meeting were approved.

James Brammer was congratulated on passing his exam as a Board Certified Master Arborist. Beth Queen was congratulated on her work with the high school's robotics team.

Joe Mazur says Mike Heher was injured & hospitalized, but promises to work with us this year.

MR. MILLER'S FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN: Joe moved, James seconded that we adopt the Poland Municipal Forest Woodland Stewardship Management Plan. Much discussion followed. Highlights are below:

EZ: There's been lots of interest in access to the plan from the Village website, but until it's adopted, it won't be on the website. Current version is a draft. BQ: An altered version will be on the website? MT: Changes will be minor, mostly to the cover sheet, Forest "owner," no mention of Mark, etc. FK: Even the draft is covered by Public Records or Sunshine Law, and must be made available upon request, and the Vindicator is very interested in Sunshine Law issues.

EZ: The plan is not "all or nothing." FK: There is only one "mandatory" measure, control invasive plants. Many "optional" measures, and many informal suggestions, some impractical. MT: There are seven objectives, and MT added two objectives. Miller has a 20-year view. The Board can pick and choose practices to follow. BE: If Council accepts it, they will see it as *carte blanche*, do what they want. EZ: A statement will explain the Board will make the decisions.

FK: Move to amend the motion on the floor, to: We adopt the Poland Municipal Forest Woodland Stewardship Management Plan with the understanding that the Forest Board will still exercise management decisions and approve or disapprove specific strategies and procedures. Bob seconded.

Discussion on the amendment: BE: Council might take steps on any element on their own, for example selling ash trees. JB: "That ship has sailed," ash trees have too little value. FK: But the plan includes cutting trees for "crop tree release." EZ: We must trust Council. MT: The amendment changes nothing. FK: It's emphasis. BQ: Council has overruled us in the past.

Voice vote on the amendment. BE, BQ, JM voted yes, JB, MT voted no, JM changed his vote to no, FK voted yes, EZ broke the tie voting no. Amendment failed.

EZ: She will attach a statement that the Board's position is as stated in the text of the failed amendment: It is our position that the Forest Board will still exercise management decisions and approve or disapprove specific strategies and procedures. A majority voted for this position.

Main motion: We adopt the Poland Municipal Forest Woodland Stewardship Management Plan. The motion passed with one abstention.

BQ: When will this plan be released to the public? EZ: Webmaster Vrable will be contacted next week. FK: Keep the Vindicator happy regarding Sunshine laws.

MT: Now begins hard work. JM: This will cost lots of money. MT: And intellectual work, must get the public involved. EZ: Eastgate grants? MT: *Re: erosion, EnviroScience is still working, researching funding. Re: invasives, Forester Bartlett could advise about grants.*

BQ: Could Miller visit next month? MT: We must choose priorities first. Let's first do an official name and logo. BQ: We have a name! MT: Next define our users, then position the Forest in people's minds. Perhaps restrict walkers, bikers, horses to certain areas? BQ: Open use has worked well. Invasives should be #1. MT: James will contact Bartlett *re: invasives*. JB: Too soon to invite Miller. Next time we should choose priorities. BQ: Beth will see if high school students can submit logo designs for the Forest.

Remarks from the public:

Dr. Lauren Schroeder: Miller's education is as a forester for lumber production. His strategies prepare the Forest for harvest, although he says harvest is impossible. The Board did not consider any alternate plans, *e.g.* to keep the Forest natural and beautiful. The Board should get alternate opinions from experts in other uses and values of the Forest, and first, "do no harm." JB: The forest is not natural; man has impacted it. FK: It is progressing, via forest succession, toward old growth, a natural process valuable for education.

Rob Dunham offers his services regarding web design and marketing, branding, publicity, etc.

Gordon Longmuir: Agrees with Lauren, and is disappointed that there has been no community discussion before adopting this plan.

Randy Jones: The plan itself calls for community discussion regarding the direction of management. FK: Public should have access to the plan *before* Council takes action.

Allison Dunham: This has been done almost entirely in secret. She could find nothing about the plan. JM: The Village always has the same committees and meetings; you can look things up. FK: But if the public doesn't know what's in the works, they won't know to look.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: James has an invoice for \$1600 to present to the Foundation for the removal of three trees at the Indian Trail entrance.

NEW BUSINESS: Gordon: The list of Board members in the kiosk is long out of date and must be revised. The Forest rules on the handout maps need updating. All Board members should examine them for discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Krygowski, secretary pro tem