

**MEETING OF THE POLAND FOREST BOARD**  
**Tuesday, November 28, 2017**  
**Poland Village Hall**

PRESENT: James Brammer, Frank Krygowski, Beth Queen, Mark Thompson, Elinor Zedaker

EXCUSED: Joe Mazur and Bob Elias (who is out of town)

GUESTS: Gordon Longmuir, Lauren Schroeder, Dave Ridowski

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM.

MINUTES: Minutes of the October 24, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

STATUS OF FUNDED PROJECTS: Mark reported that the new entrance signs should be installed this week. The new chimney for the Zedaker Pavilion is close to finished. Mark wondered what should be done with the old original stones and bricks. Elinor related ideas to use them within the pavilion as a reminiscence, and/or for building a paved walkway to the pump. Frank proposed using them to reinforce Butler Trail over the culverts where washouts require frequent refilling by Village Streets workers, since we need a better strategy there.

FOREST BOARD BUDGET: Elinor asked board members to keep looking at Bob Elias's proposed budget. We haven't yet voted to adopt it. She said no money would arrive from the recently passed Forest tax levy until 2019.

FOREST LEVY: The new one-quarter mill special levy for Poland Municipal Forest passed despite almost zero publicity. Frank noted that this indicates the Forest really is important to Poland residents. The levy runs for five years.

HAZARDOUS TREE PLAN: Frank had used email to report three trees down blocking Bluebell Circle at different places. Elinor said those could be cleared by the Village since they were considered a safety hazard, preventing emergency vehicle access. Frank noted there are at least 50 trees down across recreational footpaths. Those would not qualify as emergencies, and in the past would have been cleared by volunteers. Our recent policy changes dissuade volunteers, so we need a mechanism to address that sort of maintenance. Mark said all volunteers must submit permission and liability release forms, and be certified to operate chainsaws. Frank then asked how we could get chainsaw certification for interested volunteers.

James promised to contact the Northeast Ohio Forestry Association to investigate offering a chainsaw class in the Forest. Work during the class would be covered by NEOFA's insurance. Cost would probably be \$95 per trainee, and volunteers would have to pay that for the chainsaw credentials we now require. Frank proposed it would be efficient use of funds for the Foundation to pay the cost to certify interested volunteers, since volunteers would soon repay the cost in free work.

Beth asked about the costs of Village Streets workers, and Mark estimated it was about \$50 per hour. Beth asked if the Foundation would donate an "as needed emergency fund" to be used to clear trails until levy funds arrive. She also proposed having Rob Dunham's upcoming Forest website contain a permanent notice asking for certified chainsaw volunteers.

ARBOR DAY OF SERVICE: James reported it went very well. A team that could not attend was planning to pull down ash trees near the big hollow "Ghost" sycamore. We could pay a company (perhaps \$500 to \$1000) to take down those ash trees or let nature take its course. All spoke in favor of at least getting quotes on protecting that sycamore from tree fall. James will check on quotes.

Elinor thanked James for arranging the arbor day of service through the Ohio chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, and thanked the high school's Science Club for helping cook and serve lunch. Trolio's T-Shirts of Poland gave discounts on the hoodies Beth had ordered for the workers, and Nemenz IGA donated food for their lunch. Elinor also thanked Jordyn Grzelewski for Vindicator publicity. There is an invoice for expenses to forward to the Forest Foundation.

OTHER BUSINESS: Beth suggested a tentative date of Saturday April 21, 2018 for the next Mustard Pull and Stream Cleanup. Board members should notify Elinor of any potential conflicts.

Dave Ridowski, president of the Poland Lions Club, asked if the Board would be interested in a donated picnic table or park bench with a Lions Club nameplate. Elinor replied that a policy for named gifts has not been decided. There has been discussion about a sign listing monetary donations, but the Lions prefer a physical item rather than a monetary donation. Elinor replied we will take this under advisement and report to the Lions within a couple months, and asked Board members to think about recognizing donations. There are posts at entrances ready for signs, should we choose, but the Forest Board would have to approve anything before it is done.

Gordon Longmuir reported that the Friends of Poland Forest would be willing to organize a work day to help with cleanup, etc. during any chainsaw training day. Those volunteers could sign liability release forms that day.

Dave Ridowski asked whether certification was needed to use a bow saw to clear a trail. Elinor said no certification was needed but a permit and liability release form must still be submitted.

Lauren Schroeder objected to the arbor day of service cutting 16 trees. He cited data showing tree fall injuries are vanishingly rare, so this could not have significantly increase in safety; it left a bigger mess than natural tree fall, it incurred expense, and wood taken from the forest reduces the population of forest species. He asked for us to be very cautious about further cutting. He was told that Village Council ordered cutting, and while he is respected, his statements will not receive different answers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Frank Krygowski, secretary pro tem.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY JANUARY 23, 2018 at 7:30 P.M. (No meeting in December 2017.)