

VILLAGE OF FRANKFORT
MINUTES OF THE TREE BOARD MEETING
March 22, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Theresa Cork called the meeting of the Tree Board to order on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 1:00 P.M., at the Village Administration Building, 432 W. Nebraska Street.

ROLL CALL

Tree Board members in attendance included staff members Theresa Cork, Terry Kestel, Geoff McDermott, and Cesar Mireles. Member Kyle Medema was absent.

EMERALD ASH BORER PROGRAM UPDATE

Supt. Kestel provided a brief update to the committee on the Village's Emerald Ash Borer Program. He reported the Village implemented an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan in 2012 to control the infestation of the EAB through the removal and replacement of parkway Ash trees in the Village. He noted FY 20-21 will close out the program and the Village spent \$1,945,968 for the removal and replanting of the infested trees.

TREE SPECIES UPDATE

Supt. Kestel advised members that the Tree Board has the responsibility of reviewing the tree list included in the Village's Landscape Ordinance for tree viability. He recommended the *Pyrus calleryana*, commonly called Callery Pear and related cultivars (Bradford Pear), be removed from the Village's acceptable tree list. He noted these trees have been identified by the United States Department of Agriculture as invasive species. He reported the cultivated forms were thought to be sterile but due to their cross-breeding, they are now identified as a problem and an ecological threat. He also noted these trees have weak branch unions which allows damage during adverse weather conditions.

Supt. Kestel made a motion (#1), seconded by Member McDermott, to forward a recommendation to the Land Use & Policy Committee to amend the Village's Landscaping Ordinance removing *Pyrus calleryana* from the recommended plant materials in Appendix A, B, and C and add the tree species *Pyrus* to Appendix G: Unacceptable Trees. The motion was unanimously approved.

MAYORS' MONARCH PLEDGE

Chair Cork reported Mayor Holland received a request to sign the National Wildlife Federation's "Mayors' Monarch Pledge" and join a transnational coalition of communities, mayors, and heads of local and tribal government recognized across the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, in efforts to sustain the monarch butterfly population for generations to come. Mayor Holland asked the Tree Board to provide a recommendation on the matter.

Supt. Kestel reported he reached out to Jamie Viebach, Will County Director of the Conservation Foundation, and asked her to share any experience with the pledge. Ms. Viebach felt it was an excellent idea and offered to assist the Village with efforts in raising awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat.

Members discussed the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and reviewed 'action item selections' from the list provided by the organization. Supt. Kestel noted the Village must commit to at least three action items from the list and provide a report at the end of the year. Members identified several preferred actions items including engage with community garden groups; create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation; develop a brochure; display educational signage at Prairie Park; issue a proclamation.

Following discussion, Member McDermott made a motion (#2), seconded by Member Mireles, to forward a recommendation to Mayor Holland to sign the National Wildlife Federation's "Mayors' Monarch Pledge" and direct staff to choose three of the action items discussed. The motion was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Supt. Kestel made a motion (#3), seconded by Member Mireles, to adjourn the Tree Board meeting of March 22, 2021, at 1:30 P.M. The motion was unanimously approved.