

CONSERVANCY & SCENIC CORRIDOR COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM
October 7, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Members present: Kelley Smith Chairman, Jeanette Burger, Maggie McCCasey, Sharon DalCompo and Rob Seitz.

Members absent; None

Also present: Jim Hogue, Village Planner, and members of the public.

VISITOR BUSINESS;

There was no visitor business.

MEETING MINUTES – August 19, 2020

Minor Typographical errors were noted in the draft minutes. Commissioner Burger made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Seitz to accept the August 19, 2020 Draft Meeting minutes as revised. On a voice vote all aye.

OLD APPLICATIONS: NONE

NEW APPLICATIONS: NONE

OTHER BUSINESS;

a.) Welcome New Member – Maggie McCCasey

The CSCC welcomed Ms. McCCasey to the Commission. Ms. McCCasey thanked the Commission and indicated she was excited to participate as a Commissioner.

b.) Discussion of natural plantings on landscape islands (Rt. 22; Rt. 83 & O.M.R entering the CBD).

Planner Hogue noted at their August 25th Village Board meeting the Board heard the report of the CSCC meeting of August 19th which included a discussion of this issue.

The direction of the Board was to explore the possibilities on a preliminary basis with emphasis on;

- 1) Providing preliminary suggestions for natural plantings in landscape islands.
- 2). Fiscal Impacts\Financial Costs associated with these improvements.
- 3). The suggested plants list for natural plantings in medians.

He stated this project was not a high priority of the Board at this time and suggested perhaps a policy paper or brief could be created which contained basic data for natural plantings in medians.

He reviewed the “Successful Medians” document included in the meeting packet noting that while typically more urban than the village there were concepts in this document which would be useful in this effort.

He had also included the landscape maintenance contract with Milieu Landscaping. Maintenance of the existing landscape islands and plantings came to approximately \$4,000 per year.

Discussion then followed about the size of the medians, which medians would be a priority, acceptable native plant species for medians (3 species discussed), possible native trees & shrubs for consideration, availability of drawings (cross-sections) of the median construction.

Once this data has been assembled and compiled the CSCC will schedule a meeting “in the field” to perform a visual inspection of the medians and the surrounding environment.

Trustee O’Conner was present and mentioned the proposed landscape plan (included with the meeting packet materials) for the Route 22 widening. She asked the CSCC to review the plantings and make suggestions, particularly as it related to any native plantings. This information would be forwarded to IDOT for consideration in the Route 22 landscape plans. If successful this plant species mix could serve as model for future landscape planting along roadways. This could provide a more uniform look to roadway planting village wide.

The CSCC will review and comment on the Route 22 landscape plans.

Ms. O’Conner also noted the poor condition of the scenic corridor at the Harbor Chase development.

The natural plantings have become unkempt and infested with weeds.

She was not sure that the CSCC could do anything about but did want to bring the matter to the attention of the CSCC.

c.) Updated Plant Species List

Commissioner Burger noted that 1700 plant species are in the updated list. She is working to determine which species are readily available to make the list smaller and more practical for those using it. Due to the COVID epidemic local native plant sales has been cancelled. Her goal is to pare down the list and identify species readily available to the public. The list made available to the public will be a more “user” friendly version than the master list.

If however, a proposal for other species not on the approved list, but on the “master list” were identified in an application they may be considered as well. She continues to work to find commercial vendors which have the “desired species” readily available.

d.) 2021 Meeting Calendar

Planner Hogue presented the proposed 2021 meeting calendar. This calendar maintains the “status quo” for CSCC meeting dates. He noted a motion to approve this calendar is required.

The CSCC reviewed the calendar noting that July 7th date as presented was potentially problematic with the 4th of July holiday. The CSCC determined that it would best to not schedule a meeting on this date and hold a meeting on the 2nd meeting date of the month to consider any business which may arise.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burger, seconded by Commissioner Seitz to accept the 2021 meeting calendar with following amendment; the July regular meeting date (7.7.20) be cancelled and any business for this month be addressed at the “As Needed” 2nd meeting date of the month (July 21, 2021). On a voice vote; all aye.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING; Commissioner McCCasey moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Burger. On a voice vote, all aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Hogue

James M. Hogue, Village Planner