

ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
January 4th, 2023

Present: Deb Baesemann, Amy Forecki, Katie Forecki, James Lange, Becky Rintelmann, Anne Spalholz, Nicci Sternitzky

Guests: John Schindler

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:29 pm
2. Minutes: Last meeting minutes with no changes
3. Treasurer report: sharing Google spreadsheet of expenses with all committee members
4. Bird City WI: next meeting for Birders of the Grove is Jan 23rd at 0900 in the Park View Room.
5. Bee City USA: Considering events for Pollinator Week June 19-25th, 2023. Becky had idea for social event or "Bee Tea" with reservations, formal settings, and food that featured bees and pollination.
6. Invasive Species Task Force: discussed participation in area that goats cleared to keep buckthorn free in spring while helping teach residents how to identify young or seedling buckthorn.
7. Book Sale: ongoing sale of just two books (sold out of Native Plant book)—Doug Tallamy's books, *Bringing Home Nature* (\$20) and *Nature's Best Hope* (\$25-hardcover). Have total of 6 books left to sell.
8. Book Club: Next meeting is 1/18/23—*How to Avoid a Climate Disaster*. Bookmarks with all 2023 book selections and dates provided—village website also updated.
9. Early/Woodland plant sale: planning a soft roll out of plant sale to see how new format will work. Amy helping to revise the Google order form of 37 different native woodland plants.
10. Shrub sale: decided to order more shrubs than previously—have 6 varieties to choose from, total of 200—American elderberry, gray dogwood, Rugosa Rose, Black Chokeberry, June serviceberry, and Nannyberry viburnum.
11. Lecture series: Luke Cashin doing recordings for us. April lecturer replaced with John Harrigan, head gardener at Parkside 23. Have all 6 lecturers for next year set already.
12. National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat Certification: up to 99/150 habitat points. Spent time discussing how to obtain points with schools and churches, along with businesses. Everyone agreed to reach out to neighbors and friends who likely already qualify. Lots of great ideas to increase awareness discussed.
13. Earth and Arbor Day celebration: discussed whether to plan for weather contingencies and what our options would be. Reviewed Birders plans for celebration. Discussed ideas on who to invite.
14. Newsletter: published quarterly, next due out in February. Discussed topics to include—salting, Earth Day, Early Sale, Shrub sale.
15. Park and Creek clean up: Trustee John Schindler already planning a April 22nd creek clean up in conjunction with his Riverkeeper duties—planning to work together to expand the clean up to all of the Elm Grove Underwood Creek area and the park.
16. Membership: tabled Mailchimp discussion
17. No Mow May: decided to purchase 50 more signs (total of ~143); focus on "The More You Know, The Less You Mow" portion of the concept.
18. Other business: discussed High Interest Day at Tonawanda and library bulletin board ideas for 2023
19. Next meeting: scheduled for Feb 1st at 6:30pm in the Park View Room
20. Adjournment: 7:36 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nicci Sternitzky
chairperson