

VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE
ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
February 4th, 2026

Present: Deb Baesemann, Sally Cashin, Amy Forecki, Katie Forecki, Kristin Lehmkuhl, Nicci Sternitzky, Pat Westen

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:31 pm.
2. Minutes: No change in January minutes.
3. Treasurer report: year to date totals of expenses, donations, upcoming debts, discrepancies, and sales shared
4. Bird City WI: Next meeting is Mar 16th at 10am in the ParkView Room.
5. Bee City USA: draft of 8-page IPM plan has been made and shared via Google documents. Bee City renewal has been bumped to May. Neonic lecture on Mar 18th—input for improvements on flyer from committee.
6. Book Club: Only one more wine and cheese book club events remaining this year— February 18th 2026 (Owls of the Eastern Ice by Jonathan Slaughter). Will have SignUp Genius for RSVP.
7. Invasive Species Task Force: will see if we can donate to Junior guild Gala again this year. Will renew membership in SEWISC. Discussed Callery pear take down and planting of native perennials around current sign.
8. Winter Lecture Series: Have just 1 remaining WLS events— March 18 '26 with Dr. Crall's Neonicitinoid lecture.
9. Veteran's Park Revitalization Plan: Seeding occurred on Saturday, Jan 10th. A total of 43 varieties of seeds collected and purchased.
10. Mayors' Monarch Pledge: Completed pledge (due 12/1) and were able to achieve 20 of the 29 actions making us the top earner in the state. Only 8 Monarch Champions in the entire US in 2025—a goal of ours for 2026. Spent time reviewing criteria.
11. Adopt Your Drain: currently have 63 of the 190 drains within the village adopted or 33.1%. With one aim of our committee to support clean waterways, looking for ideas to engage with more residents to adopt a drain. SweetWater was at the Winter Salt Week Open House on Jan 31st and did get another sign up.
12. Adopt-a-River: We officially now have the portion of Underwood Creek as it winds through the park. Will partake in the Clean Up on the official MRK day (Saturday, April 25th)—likely at 11am.
13. Spring Plant Sales: Will hold the weekend of May 15th—spring ephemeral, perennial, and shrub sale all in one. Community Room is reserved. Discussed publicity and signs for the sale. Have ordered 800 native shrubs (50 each of 16 varieties of native shrubs). Discussed layout for Community Room, publicity (Waukesha Freeman? churches?). Amy and Katie will put up window, will get banner up at corner.
14. Urban Deer Management: Elm Grove did receive grant from DNR, but will be waiting until next winter to proceed.
15. Mission/Vision Statement: ideas put forth—will gather and present at the next meeting.
16. High Interest Day for Tonawanda: Scheduled for April 24th. Steve agreed to help out; Amy with a slew of amazing ideas. Will provide handout for plant sale with coupon for free milkweed. Might make seed bombs with students.
17. Winter Salt Week Open House: happened on Jan 31st, discussed ideas to bring awareness to water quality, along with infrastructure damage from oversalting to residents
18. Landscaping for Birds Seminar sponsorship: voted to be a Silver Sponsor for \$250 for April 18th event at Brookfield Convention Center
19. Elm Grove Summer Camp: we were given the OK to help develop a "Monarch Madness" week for the Rec department summer camp! Amy will obviously help take the lead on this—will get a bit more information from Isabella once head camp counselor hired and then start planning! Will be
20. Next meeting: scheduled for March 4th at 6:30pm in the Park View Room
21. Adjournment: 7:48pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nicci Sternitzky
chairperson