

**MINUTES OF A “SPECIAL” MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH
COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BARRINGTON, WHICH WAS HELD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2010 AT
THE NORTH BARRINGTON VILLAGE HALL
111 OLD BARRINGTON ROAD IN SAID VILLAGE**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

At 7:31 P.M. Chairman Bruce Kramper called the meeting to order and the Deputy Village Clerk called the roll:

Present in Person: Chairman Bruce Kramper, Vice Chairman Patty Kalinowski, Jackie Andrew, Rob Haas
Absent: Susan Allman
Also Present: Mark Spreyer, 33 West Penny Road, South Barrington
Natalie Karney, Village Health and Sanitation Officer
Camille Koertner, Village Trustee
Kris Lennon, Deputy Village Clerk

**2. Approval of Past Minutes: Environmental and Health Commission Meeting
August 3, 2010**

The Minutes of the August 3, 2010 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting were made available to the Commission.

Motion: Vice Chairman Patty Kalinowski moved that the Minutes of the August 3, 2010 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting be approved; seconded by Jackie Andrew.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote on Motion: The voice vote was unanimous in favor.

Chairman Bruce Kramper declared the Minutes of the August 3, 2010 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting approved and put on file.

3. Wynstone Tree Request

Chairman Kramper asked the Commission for any comments regarding the Wynstone tree request. Ms. Andrew stated that she has a tree in her yard that is similar in size and was hit by lightning about ten years ago. She stated that much of the bark had been taken from the tree as a result and the tree isn't aesthetically appealing from one side, but is healthy and still living. Ms. Andrew also stated that trees can recover and there are many different ways to stabilize the tree in question such as the use of metal ties and/or bands. Mr. Haas stated that he didn't see a reason as to why the tree needed to be removed at this time and seconded Ms. Andrew's thoughts on the use of using cables to stabilize the tree especially during the winter months with snow, ice, etc.

Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that she saw the splits in the tree and some additional damage below the splits. She stated that she asked Mr. McGargill, Wynstone Golf Club, to supply her with information from an arborist. The arborist told Mr. McGargill that if the tree were in a forest it

wouldn't be an issue, but because of the location of the tree and its potential to fall he was concerned about its safety. Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that based on the information from the arborist her opinion is to let them remove the tree. Mark Spreyer, 33 W. Penny Rd., stated that he has a forestry degree and his opinion would be to allow the tree to stand for a year and then readdress the situation. Chairman Kramper stated that he also contacted the same arborist Vice Chairman Kalinowski spoke with about the situation. The suggestion that he received was that the structural integrity of the tree was in question. While the tree may look healthy on the outside, it does not necessarily mean that it is safe; and it less safe now than it was before being struck by lightning. Chairman Kramper also stated that many golfers park their golf carts under that tree since it is one of the only trees near a green on the course. In addition, many golfers didn't want to see the tree removed since they use it as a distance marker to the green. He stated that while some golfers did not want the tree removed, other people were concerned about the liability if the tree were to fall. Wynstone also agreed to replace the tree with other trees. Chairman Kramper stated that Wynstone fulfilled all of the requirements set forth by the Ordinance and because of this he questioned the Commission's ability to deny the request.

Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that Wynstone is obviously trying to maintain the integrity of large trees on their property, but they are worried because it is a high traffic area. She also stated that she believed Wystone was erring on the side of caution in this situation. She stated that she believes they should follow the suggestions of the arborists and that it should be removed. Mr. Spreyer stated that many golf courses didn't like trees over their greens as he was told by a golf course groundskeeper. Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that she did not believe that that was Wynstone's intention. Chairman Kramper asked if the Village would assume liability if they allow the tree to stand for a year and reassess.

Trustee Koertner stated that she contacted Morton Arboretum and spoke with a tree specialist. The tree specialist did not see the tree in person but made his suggestions using photos. The tree specialist stated that the tree didn't seem to be dying; however he did see the splits in the tree. He also stated that it isn't always obvious a short time after a lightning strike as to whether or not the tree will survive since lightning usually affects the roots of trees and the damage is not always immediately noticeable. The tree specialist also suggested getting the opinion of another arborist/tree specialist.

Ms. Andrew stated that the Commission should research the cost for an arborist to examine the tree. She also stated that she thought it would be beneficial for the Commission to hire a second arborist for another opinion. Chairman Kramper again questioned whether the Village would assume liability if the Commission denied the request and the tree fell. Vice Chairman Kalinowski asked if the Ordinance required the suggestions of more than one arborist. Chairman Kramper stated that it did not.

Motion: Jackie Andrew moved that the Environmental and Health Commission recommend a second opinion be obtained from a different arborist group; seconded by Rob Haas.

Discussion: There was some discussion.

Vote on Motion: Ayes: Jackie Andrew, Rob Haas

Nays: Chairman Bruce Kramper, Vice Chairman Patty Kalinowski

Abstain: None

Absent: Susan Allman

Chairman Kramper declared the motion not passed and the topic tabled.

4. Septic Maintenance Ordinance – Review

Chairman Kramper stated that the Septic Ordinance was passed at the prior Board Meeting. He stated that there were some minor changes throughout the Ordinance. There was some discussion.

Chairman Kramper stated that he received many responses from Board members regarding the drafts of previous letters sent to them. This included the letter drafted to be sent to the contractors. He stated that, because of legal reasons, the resident would not be able to appeal to Ms. Karney but instead would have to appeal directly to the Environmental and Health Commission. He also stated that he must draft a letter to the homeowners and would do so for the next meeting.

Natalie Karney, Village Health and Sanitation Officer, stated that she distributed a copy of the operating permit form at the staff meeting to receive feedback. She stated that the staff believed that the resident would be confused by the outline of the form. The information under the “Resident Information” and “Type of System” headings would be difficult for the resident to complete. Chairman Kramper suggested to include instructions on how to complete this information in the letter that would be sent to the homeowner. Ms. Karney stated that letters get misplaced and that the staff suggested using the back of the operating permit form for instructions. She stated that the topics on the front should be numbered and then, with a corresponding number on the back, would be explained. She also stated that the staff suggested creating a frequently asked question (FAQ) list for the resident to reduce calls to the Village. Chairman Kramper suggested that the resident only be responsible for the completion of the “Owner,” “Address of System,” and “Residence Information” categories on the form and Ms. Karney suggested instructions for those categories to be placed on the back of the form. Some of these instructions would include things such as the definition of the owner of the home as defined by the Village as well as the definition of a bedroom, study, etc. He also asked the Commission to come up with a few FAQ’s to discuss at the next meeting. Vice Chairman Kalinowski suggested the addition of a line to break the form into clear sections that delineate where the resident is supposed to complete the form and where the contractor completes the form.

Mr. Haas stated that the original idea of the form was to keep things as simple as possible. Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that the goal of the Septic Ordinance was for the resident to gain knowledge about septic systems. Mr. Haas had a few questions regarding the questions on the form. He asked how an inspector was to know what the septic tank capacity was if the resident wasn’t home or if the resident didn’t know. He stated that that piece of knowledge wouldn’t be known unless the tank was being pumped. Vice Chairman Kalinowski suggested using the as built info to gain the appropriate knowledge. Mr. Haas asked if this form was intended to be completed if the resident was not home. His concern was that there were a few questions that would be easily answered if access to the house were granted, but with a resident not home would not be able to be answered. Chairman Kramper suggested that the inspector could call the homeowner or leave the field blank. Ms. Andrew suggested that the inspector give the resident a time frame as to when they would be there and the resident would have to be home. Chairman Kramper stated that a permit would not be denied for leaving one or two blanks on it. Eventually, each household would have a complete form due to the fact that the tank would need to be pumped and all information would be gathered.

Ms. Karney stated that it was suggested to send out the notices and forms in a mass mailing to the Village residents as opposed to the staggered approach suggested by the Commission. She also said that the mailing could be sent in mass with a longer deadline and more reminders sent to the residents.

Chairman Kramper stated that he did not want to see the market flooded with so many people needing a contractor under the same deadline and that it would be easier to stagger the mailing. He stated that the first round of mailings was to be used as a test case so that the Commission could then handle any problems that arose with the forms. He also stated that the Commission does not know what the status is of many systems throughout the Village and he did not want Ms. Karney to have too many inspections to handle and not enough time. Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that the Ordinance and letters have been written displaying a staggered approach. Trustee Koertner also suggested that the form be placed online for residents to print if needed.

5. Flint Creek Project – Educational Aspect

Ms. Andrew stated that she put together some questions that could be included in an educational mailing. These questions included things such as:

- What native species of grass and/or ground cover would hold creek side for erosion?
- What types of trees are good for the creek side, like river birch, that could be planted to stabilize soils against erosion (not right on the side of the creek but back a little further)?
- Which areas are floodplains?
- Why is it necessary to keep debris out of the creek?
- What is a meandering stream and how does it affect the flow of the creek?
- Should the creek be left to take its natural path?
- What effect does fertilizer have on the creek? How far back should fertilizer be kept from the creek?
- Is there a way to stop yard or golf course runoff from going into the creek?
- Are the horse farms/stables by-products running into the creek?
- Have we tested the creek like we do for septic systems around lakes?

Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that different organizations have brochures and they could consider something similar. She also stated that a demonstration at Fall Fest could be beneficial and could include hands on educational things such as a drawing depicting the flow of the creek. She stated that she wasn't sure how many residents would come to a special meeting on specific topics. Chairman Kramper asked how the Commission would get residents to pay attention to the education. He stated that if there were projects that homeowners were contacted to participate in that would benefit their properties that it may be possible to gain their attention.

Ms. Andrew stated that she would volunteer to go house to house with a packet of information and discuss some of the topics with homeowners willing to listen. She stated that this was a goal to reach for by spring. Chairman Kramper stated that this could be done on a volunteer basis and asked Ms. Andrew to put together a professional looking informational packet for the Commission to look at a few meetings from now.

Trustee Koertner stated that a blog for the creek could be useful in getting people involved. If the blog were started through the school systems it would get the children interested and therefore pull the rest of the family into learning about their creek.

6. Old/New Business

There was no old business.

There was no new business.

7. Adjournment

Motion: Jackie Andrew moved the Meeting be adjourned; seconded by Vice Chairman Patty Kalinowski.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote on Motion: The voice vote was unanimous in favor.

At 8:53 p.m. Chairman Bruce Kramper declared the meeting adjourned.

These Minutes were approved at the Environmental and Health Commission Meeting held October 5, 2010.

ATTEST:

_____, Nicole Keiter, Deputy Village Clerk

