

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH COMMISSION OF  
THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BARRINGTON, WHICH WAS HELD  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 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 Gery Herrmann called the meeting to order and the Deputy Village Clerk called the roll:

Present in Person: Chairman Gery Herrmann, Vice Chairman Bruce Kramper, Jackie Andrew, Susan Allman, Barbara Cragan  
Absent: Patty Kalinowski  
Also Present: Tim Moritz, Tallgrass Restoration  
Rob Haas, 619 Miller Road, North Barrington  
Nicole Keiter, Deputy Village Clerk

**2. Approval of Past Minutes: Environmental and Health Commission Meeting  
August 4, 2009**

The Minutes of the August 4, 2009 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting were made available to the Commission.

Motion: Barbara Cragan moved that the Minutes of the August 4, 2009 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting be approved; seconded by Susan Allman.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote on Motion:

The voice vote was unanimous in favor.

Chairman Gery Herrmann declared the Minutes of the August 4, 2009 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting approved and put on file.

**3. Update of Flint Creek Project: Tim Moritz, Tallgrass**

Tim Moritz, Tallgrass Restoration, gave a brief update on the status of the Flint Creek Project. He also addressed any questions and/or concerns that the Commission had regarding the project. Mr. Moritz informed the Commission that due to poor weather conditions, the clearing of jams in the creek had not begun; but are scheduled to be started and completed within the next few weeks.

Chairman Herrmann stated that his biggest concern was that the clearing phase of the project is scheduled to start upstream and continue downstream. By doing this big rains would increase the flow of water and therefore increase the jams downstream. He also asked where the debris, after being cleared, would be placed. Chairman Herrmann wanted to be sure that none of the debris would be placed close enough to the creek to be pushed back in by heavy rain; and also wanted to know the estimated time frame from start to finish with regards to this portion of the project. Mr. Moritz

explained that the clearing would be started at the project site, upstream, because that is where the worst jams are located. Everything else that they will need to clear is minimal in comparison. He also stated that the type of clearing being done was defined by the “free and open” method; Tallgrass would not be removing anything anchored into the banks. Mr. Moritz assured Chairman Herrmann that any debris removed from the creek would be placed far enough away that there would be no chance of it getting back into the creek. Mr. Moritz also explained that there is more of an issue with the erosion being created by the log jams and the water finding its own way through and around these jams than the actual debris jams themselves. The estimated time frame for clearing the jams is one week start to finish, weather permitting.

Ms. Allman asked what will be done with the debris. Mr. Moritz stated that the debris would be piled and then burned in burn piles during the dormant season. He assured Ms. Allman that the piles would be moved to cleared areas so that during the burning process no trees would be damaged.

Ms. Andrew stated that she was very frustrated with the project and the results she has seen so far from it. She stated that in her opinion, poor decisions were made with nearly every aspect of the project and because of this there would need to be continuous work done to remedy the situation. Ms. Andrew was also concerned about the piles of debris that were still around from the first phases of the project and what would be done with them. Mr. Moritz stated that the project area still looks rough due to the clearing that was completed. He stated that the Commission, the Board, and the community were told many times that the area would not look pristine in the short term. Mr. Moritz assured the Commission that there are quality individuals with a lot of experience handling the steps of this process with him. He also stated that the piles of debris from earlier phases were still around because of when they started the project. Due to the timeline, they were unable to move the piles earlier; however, when the dormant season begins all piles will be removed.

Vice Chairman Kramper asked if the current contract, without additional funds, would cover any and all steps that would be required in making the property around Flint Creek look nice and well kept. Mr. Moritz verified that anything needed to make the property look pristine would be covered under the current contract. He also suggested that Tallgrass and the Commission plan a “work day” where residents could get educated and involved on their own properties in the project. Mr. Moritz stated that he would be more than willing to spearhead and participate in that activity. He also stated that any activity involving the public would have to be done in the late season when Tallgrass wasn’t using dangerous equipment at their worksite. There was some additional brief discussion regarding garlic mustard.

Vice Chairman Kramper stated that the Board was comfortable accepting this project as one that would be long-term at their last meeting. Mr. Moritz explained that a lot of benefits would be seen in only a couple years with this project. Even though it is stated as a 10 year project, it will not take that long before benefits are seen. Mr. Moritz also stated that many native woodland plants are already coming back which is a good sign.

There was also some discussion regarding the purpose and placement of a demonstration garden. Mr. Moritz, along with the Commission, would like to see a demonstration garden used as an educational project somewhere that is easily visible to the community. Mr. Moritz will examine the area in front of the Village Hall and also around the property of North Barrington Elementary School to see which would be a better fit for the demonstration garden. The Environmental and Health Commission does not support North Barrington Elementary School as an option for the demonstration garden and would like to see it placed in front of the Village Hall.

#### **4. Septic Ordinance Update**

Mr. Rob Haas, 619 Miller Road, asked the Commission for a couple minutes of their time to discuss the Septic Ordinance. Chairman Herrmann, along with the rest of the Commission, welcomed Mr. Haas and his comments. Mr. Haas told the Commission that he had attended the last Board meeting and explained that he has worked in the Septic business for many years, owning his own company. The nature of his company is to only inspect septic systems, not handle any repairs/replacements. Mr. Haas stated that the Ordinance, as presented at the last Board meeting, had good intent and purpose. He also stated that a lot of systems are aging and need replaced or repaired; however, he had a couple questions for the Commission.

Mr. Haas' first concern was with who was to do the inspection of the systems. He felt that the way the Ordinance was currently worded was too vague and could be susceptible to the inspectors raising the costs for the resident, with unnecessary work, for their own benefit. He was concerned that there could be vested interests and that the residents would have no choice but follow the suggestion of that inspector. Chairman Herrmann stated that this concern had been brought to the Commission before and that it had been stated that the Village is not requiring a specific company/inspector to handle all of the inspections. Also, whichever company does the inspection is not required to handle any repairs/replacement needed.

Mr. Haas suggested that the Commission consider changing the Ordinance so that it is required that the inspections be done by a company that would only handle the inspection; but was not intending to promote his own company in any way. He felt that this would create a more unbiased decision making process that would be beneficial to the residents. Mr. Haas also stated that he liked the educational component of this Ordinance and that many problems, in his opinion, are due to a lack of knowledge. There was some additional discussion.

The Commission also took into consideration the suggestions made by Village Board member Lawrence Weiner regarding the Septic Ordinance. The Commission decided that any additional details added by the Board in the future would be accepted as far as they were concerned. The Commission also stated that they had accomplished what they set out to in regards to this Ordinance. Chairman Herrmann, along with the rest of the Commission, decided that they would remove this topic from any further meeting agendas until it had gone through the Board and any additional mediums and then, if needed, return to it.

#### **5. Update Commission Terms**

This meeting was Chairman Herrmann's last meeting as part of the Environmental and Health Commission. His official resignation date is October 1, 2009. Chairman Herrmann thanked the Commission for all of their hard work, thoughts, and dedication over his term. Vice Chairman Bruce Kramper will accept the responsibilities of Chairman after the resignation. Barbara Cragan and Patty Kalinowski were re-appointed to the Environmental and Health Commission for another term.

**6. Old/New Business**

Ms. Allman stated that she had successfully requested two chipping days for the upcoming year; one for fall and one for spring. She also stated that the Red Oak tree would be this year's 50/50 tree for the Village sponsored program. Ms. Allman showed the Commission door hangers that had been printed in regards to the Emerald Ash Borer. The Commission decided that they would save the door hangers and use them on Earth Day.

There was some discussion regarding the high number of coyotes in the Village. Ms. Andrew suggested that the Commission consider writing something to be put on the Village website regarding safety for household pets, specifically dogs.

**7. Adjournment**

Motion: Jackie Andrew moved the Meeting be adjourned; seconded by Barbara Cragan.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote on Motion:

The voice vote was unanimous in favor.

At 8:45 p.m. Chairman Gery Herrmann declared the meeting adjourned.

These Minutes were approved at the Environmental and Health Commission Meeting held October 6, 2009.

ATTEST:

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Nicole Keiter, Deputy Village Clerk

