

Village of South Barrington
Conservancy Commission
Tuesday, August 16, 2011
Minutes

Call To Order

Commissioner Koty called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Eileen Koty, Nancy Munao, and Jerry Murrin Absent: Darryl Lustig and Michael Niedzinski. A quorum was present.

Others present: Photographer Diane Bodkin.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Munao motioned to accept the minutes of the July 21, 2011 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murrin and carried by voice vote.

Conservancy Update

There was no conservancy update.

Future Programming

Ms. Bodkin stated that the Leave No Child Inside organizers are looking for a site to offer a seining class. She explained that a seine is a fishing net that hangs in the water due to weights along the bottom edge and floats along the top. She asked permission to invite them to look at the Conservancy pond as a possible site. Ms. Bodkin stated that she thought the area by the bridge or the area beside the butterfly garden might work. The commissioners agreed that LNCI is welcome to visit the Conservancy to see if either spot would work. Commissioner Munao stated that the Commission would welcome a LNCI class on the grounds.

Dr. Koty asked Ms. Bodkin to report on the meeting that they had to review ideas for magazine articles to be published seasonally in *South Barrington Life* magazine. Recording secretary Mary Lampugnano will write them from literature and ideas given to her by Dr. Koty and Ms. Bodkin. Several ideas were discussed about what should be included in the articles including a map of the conservancy, requests for volunteers to facilitate programs, trail maps, descriptions of activities that can be completed at the Conservancy including music, painting, nature walks, etc. The articles will focus on seasonal activities that are available at the Conservancy. Dr. Koty stated that Ms. Bodkin has been a wonderful resource for photographs and thanked her for her efforts.

Ms. Bodkin shared with commissioners the pictures she took of the wildflowers and wildlife at the Conservancy that will be used to accompany the proposed summer edition article "Summer at the Conservancy" in *South Barrington Life* magazine. She stated that she has several ideas for pictures for the spring and fall articles that focus on people utilizing the conservancy. She stated that she would like to capture in photograph a

family enjoying a picnic, a plainer painter, or a family walking the trails. For the fall issue, she would like to capture the turning of the leaves.

Mr. Murrin stated his daughter, Emily, has completed a curriculum for an elementary age children's class for the fall "Learning to Love Local Leaves" which will combine art and nature. Activities in the class will include a nature walk, gathering leaves and an embossing project to preserve the leaves as keepsakes. Commissioners enthusiastically welcomed Emily's project. Ms. Bodkin stated that Pat Winkelman from LNCI might be interested in working together with Emily and others to offer future classes at the Conservancy. Dr. Koty stated that the Commission's goal is to develop three or four one-day classes that can be offered as part of a series and marketed through Rose Elementary School or the South Barrington Park District. Commissioner Murrin suggested offering lessons on snow-shoeing or cross country skiing as a winter program; Commissioner Munao suggested story-telling for children; and Dr. Koty suggested a sketching class for children or adults. Dr. Koty encouraged all commissioners to think of ideas for developing programs.

Commissioner Murrin will forward Emily Murrin's "Learning to Love Local Leaves" outline to Commissioner Munao, who will refine and edit it and create a flyer for distribution at Rose Elementary School. Ms. Bodkin agreed to attend the class to take photographs.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of acquiring a tent to be used for classes held at the Conservancy during inclement weather. Ms. Bodkin suggested that a 20 x 20 tent with a permanent cement foundation would be ideal for the Conservancy stating that the foundation would eliminate the need for guide wires to hold up the tent. Other commissioners agreed but cautioned that the mayor may not approve a permanent foundation. Commissioner Munao suggested approaching the park district or the garden club to borrow a tent and then, when a need has been established, they could purchase one of their own.

Commissioners discussed where to place the tent and agreed that it needed to be near the parking lot.

August 20th is Children's Day at the Arboretum Lifestyle Center. Commissioners agreed that the notice is too short to participate in the program this year but it is good information for next year.

Ms. Bodkin stated that she is on the Board of Directors of the Citizens for Conservation (CFC) and that they might be interested in working on a project to beautify the butterfly garden area of the Conservancy. She thought an idea might be to gather CFC volunteers and Conservancy volunteers to clear the butterfly garden area of invasive plants and plant flower seed that will attract the butterflies. She stated that she had previously spoken to the mayor about having a controlled burn in the area and he was concerned about the fumes. They discussed knocking down the weeds with a weed-whacker but no decision

was made. Ms. Bodkin volunteered to walk the area with the mayor to set the parameters for the butterfly garden. She stated that she will call him about it.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of recruiting young people who are looking for community service projects to work on the Conservancy grounds. Some suggestions were contacting organizations such as the Silver and Gold Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the Indian Guide, and Barrington High School community service representatives. Commissioner Munao offered to make contact with the Barrington School District and the South Barrington Foundation to recruit volunteers.

Dr. Koty advised that, at the next meeting, they will discuss winter programs that could be developed.

Dr. Koty thanked Ms. Bodkin for her interest and input into the Conservancy and invited her to join them again at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Munao motioned, and Commissioner Murrin seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

The minutes of the August 16, 2011 Conservancy Commission are respectfully submitted,

Mary Lampugnano
Recording Secretary