



THE VILLAGE OF HAWTHORN WOODS
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MINUTES
7:30 P.M.
October 18th, 2007

1. Call to order/Attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Those present at the meeting included: Ted Schweitzer, Brian Heraty, Kathy Felice and Steve Riess, the Trustee Liaison. John Bickley and Ivan Lee were absent.

2. Review Minutes from past meeting(s).

Motion by Mr. Heraty to approve the minutes as published. Second by Mr. Schweitzer. On a voice vote, the minutes of August 16, 2007 Environmental Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Opportunity for Public to address the Committee.

Residents, Mr. and Mrs. Ibbotson, spoke to the issue of Dutch elm disease, as first reported six months ago, and trees that are dying. Residents said that if the diseased trees are not removed that other trees will die. Issue is twofold: The village attorney has indicated that the village has the right if there is a clear and imminent danger to village residents or their property to take immediate action on behalf of the residents and remove that danger regardless of anything else. The specific ordinances associated with that removal have not been written to the code in the proper detail in the Village of Hawthorn Woods. The village attorney has recommended that the village will "notice" the homeowner to remove the trees in 30 days – with Dutch elm that may be too long. Residents were encouraged to attend the November board meeting and address the full Board of Trustees to state their concern over this problem and to make the Board more aware of this problem. Discussion included the steps that other villages take when Dutch elm is found in trees and that a tree removal for this disease must include removal of the stump. A protocol needs to exist that includes identification, verification, notification and then eradication of the problem. Discussion of a contest to find the biggest tree would allow the village to "inventory" the trees. Discussion of becoming a member of Tree City, USA.

A review of the Environmental Committee goals and current issues was discussed with the residents present. Mrs. Ibbotson expressed an interest in a committee position and she was told to send a letter to Mayor Hunt telling him of her interest in joining the committee.

4. New Business:

- i. Fall Adopt a Highway – by voice vote, committee will meet on October 28, weather permitting.

5. Old Business

- i.** Bicycle Paths in the Village, and the Illinois Safe Route to School initiative – Progress is being made with the task force formed to plan the bicycle paths in the Village. Inter-community paths will be included in the plan. There was a review of the plans by the task force. Issues included getting people to and from schools, across railroad tracks and to the aquatic center. Tunnels under the railroad tracks take a long time to get approved. Connecting all the neighborhoods and subdivisions is the goal of bike paths. The Village will apply for grants that are usually “matching” grants. This means that the Village has to put up the same amount of money as the grant.
- ii.** Discussion of planting flowers along roadways in Village – One idea presented was to make planting a Boy Scout project. Discussion of fundraising means and having the kids do the selling. Also discussion of having residents just volunteer to do the planting and purchasing. Planting in village right-of-ways or at entrances of neighborhoods was discussed. Further discussion was tabled to the November meeting where discussion would include a plan of where the planting would occur and what the cost would be for such a planting.
- iii.** November and December schedules – Final review of bike plan must be done at November 15 meeting. December meeting will not be necessary. There was motion by Kathy Felice and seconded by Ted Schweitzer to cancel a December meeting and on a voice vote the motion carried.

6. Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ted Schweitzer and seconded by Kathy Felice to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.