

**VILLAGE OF BANNOCKBURN
SPECIAL TREE COMMISSION
AUGUST 18, 2015
MEETING MINUTES**

1. 01-08/18: **Call to Order.** Chairman Raimondi called the meeting of the Tree Commission to order at 8:05 PM.

Chairman Present: Michael Raimondi

Commissioners Present: David Friedman, Rick Pedersen, Theresa Zagnoli

Commissioners Absent: Jackie Sieros

Also Present: Village Manager Maria Lasday, Assistant to Village Manager Ryan Mentkowski, Village Forester Todd Sinn

Visitors Present: Bruce Nelson (1665 Meadow), David Korner (1770 Meadow), Roger Winstead (Rocco Fiore)

2. 02-08/18: **Visitors Business**

No Visitors spoke.

3. 03-08/18: **Consider Possible Revisions to the Village of Bannockburn's Tree Ordinance and to the Village of Bannockburn Zoning Code Pertaining to Bufferyard Regulations.**

Chairman Raimondi noted that in the report provided by Staff, they have been given some direction as to what the Village Board would like this Commission (or ARC) to look for in relation to the Tree Ordinance. He noted the ARC was to review the revised Village's Tree Ordinance and Section 9-107 of the zoning ordinance, as well the original and redlined versions included in your agenda materials. It was also noted that although no changes were suggested, Staff also provided Section 9-108 of the Village of Bannockburn Zoning Code. He noted they have assignments to define "triggers" to the Village's bufferyard requirements; determine amount of plantings required if the Village's bufferyard requirements are triggered; determine whether there should be residential bufferyard regulations for new construction only; determine whether the bufferyard regulations should exclude older homes that do not have opacity; determine whether the bufferyard regulations should be different for homes in the "A" District versus the "B" District; determine whether there should be reduced bufferyard screening requirements for smaller projects, such as decks and accessory structures; determine whether bufferyard screening requirements should be exempted if contrary to other county, State and Federal regulations; and determine whether bufferyard screening requirements should apply to dead, diseased, infested and hazardous trees.

Village Forester Todd Sinn provided a brief presentation regarding the tree ordinance. He discussed the following observations based on his years of working with this ordinance: the amount of trees required makes it too dense when they are mature; the project is too costly and cost prohibitive for the residents; that the amount of plantings is sometimes detrimental

to existing trees; whether removing dead trees and providing replacements or for removing buckthorn; whether every buffer yard should be required to meet opacity if the improvements are not visible from all property lines; and he often receives complaints from other landscape architects about the amount of plantings and the complexity involved with the opacity schedule.

The Commissioners generally discussed the following items at the meeting:

- If the proposed regulations in the draft ordinance are still too much (i.e. too many plantings) to create a healthy bufferyard;
- If there are enough evergreen trees proposed with the current proposal;
- That the three foot high shrub requirement be a bigger shrub, whether you can get diversification from this height of shrub, and that the size should be defined at the size the plant is at maturity (from a size stand point);
- The reasoning for the goal of 100% landscape opacity;
- That we should be trying to preserve the overall look of the Village of Bannockburn. This is not Lake Forest or Deerfield and is unique to Bannockburn;
- That the different sizes of the lots should be considered when determining amounts of landscaping required;
- May be upset if buckthorn is removed and a reduced landscape standard is put in its place;
- The goal is to look natural and not symmetrical – (proposed 6.3A). Whether the goal was to keep the 50% opacity requirement as the acceptable standard for the Village. [It was noted by the Forester that the revised, draft, opacity tables noted an opacity value of 50%.]; and
- The removal of dead/diseased/dying trees that are within the bufferyard should be allowed without requiring opacity to be met with said removals.

Bruce Nelson, a resident of Bannockburn, referenced the Lake Forest regulations and noted that the Village of Bannockburn had the most stringent regulations.

Building Commissioner David Korner commented on the landscape project on Stirling Circle. He stated that even though buckthorn was removed and the opacity has been changed, the residents seem to be happy with the end result.

Roger Winsted, a landscape architect with Rocco Fiore and representing 2000 Half Day Road, inquired about berming regulations specific to the 100% opacity level required when opacity is required along Half Day Road. He also noted that planting trees too close together is not a good forestry practice. He also noted that the Village could have a suggested list of trees/shrubs that developers/residents could utilize when planting. He noted that you are not going to get good forestry practice with a full (100%) opacity requirement.

The Commissioners generally expressed the desire to have opacity requirements, especially after a resident removes buckthorn. The general consensus was that opacity regulations should not be imposed when a resident removes a dead, diseased, infested or hazardous tree from within the bufferyard.

The Commission consensus was that this agenda item would continue to be discussed at the next Tree Commission meeting that would take place in September.

4. **Adjournment.**

Commissioner Friedman moved, seconded by Commissioner Pederson, to adjourn the meeting of the Special Tree Commission. On a voice vote, the motion was approved. Ayes: Three (Friedman, Pedersen, Zagnoli); Nays: None; Absent: One (Sieros).
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.