

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MINUTES

July 15, 2020

Government Center

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance by Sonja Perry

2. Cake

We started the meeting with Brad introducing Ed DeRoche. Ed is with CAKE, (Charlevoix, Antrum, Kalkaska and Emmet Invasive Species Management.

Brad showed Ed the three areas of concern, the Kid's Pond, the Garden Terrace, and the Boardwalk Sitting Garden.

Ed surveyed the areas and came up with three areas of concerns with invasive species. Ed will send us a report with pictures and recommendations. A general synopsis below. Ed said that the Japanese Barberry was our BIGGEST problem. It is the most pronounced and about 10 plants by the waterfall.

The Kid's Pond has 2 locations of Bell's Honeysuckle. One is NW of the waterfall. Bell's Honeysuckle is an invasive shrub and can overtake the area. They can reduce the diversity of the plants and ultimately can affect the wildlife. Birds and animals can spread the plants to other locations. This needs to be treated with a foliar spray.

The Kid's Pond also has Bohemian Knotweed along the shoreline. Fortunately, this is in only one spot. This is one of the worst species to deal with, the roots can go down about 10 feet and when mowed it sends shoots out 60 feet away. It can take 3-4 years to control. This was treated once several years ago. It needs to be treated with an aquatic approved herbicide again, (with state approval). Now is the time to treat it.

We have about 30 Japanese Barberry's which are an invasive plant and we want to get rid of these. They harbor ticks and deer mites and the birds and animals will spread them to other areas. (These can be readily dug out.)

1 area of Knapweed was spotted. This can be pulled by hand and controlled easily at this time.

Bull thistle was found along the Terrace Wall. There is about 200 sq ft of this and it can be removed by digging or an herbicide. It should be removed as it is thorny and is a hazard to kids and animals.

The Japanese Barberry by the waterfall is the biggest problem.

Sonja brought up that we need a plan and Ed will send us the presentation and offer recommendations of treatment.

Sonja, "Thank you Ed, you were very informative, and the price is right".

3. Approval of minutes- The minutes from the June 17, 2020 meeting were approved with a motion by Green and a second by Shank.

4. Public Comments- none

5. Financial Report- The financial report has not changed from May. We have received the following bills to be paid currently.

Tree Doctor- \$ 244.00

Snap Printing - \$ 285.00

Pine Hill Nursery- \$1300.00 (this is our share of the cost of redoing the Yuchasz Walk Through with the Garden Club

1. Approval of Paying the bills. Sonja asked for a motion to approve payment of these bills. Motion made by Harvey and second by Green. All in favor and the motion was approved.

7. Community Garden Report- Robyn brought up the Beulah Morrison mews and these have been pulled. Robyn brought up the fact that not much was happening because of Covid, but the crews are out taking care of the gardens and they are looking beautiful.

8. Beautification Gardens

Terrace Garden- This garden is in bad shape. Brad reports that there is poison sumac here. Sumac is not invasive but send shoots out everywhere. The timbers are rotting and the mugo pines are not looking healthy. Sonja has asked Marcus to trim the fence line. This garden was done in 1985 to the tune of \$2300.

We had a lengthy discussion and lot of thoughts of what to do. Susan Green has some notes from last year when she was investigating options to fix this wall.

Discussion was that we will start with parameter's for cleanup. Brad and Susan Green will start the process, talk to William Cooper to see what can be done along the River Front, whose approval do we need for our initial clean up. Park's and Rec's might be part of the effort to redo this area? We need to put money in the budget for next year. We need to make a plan, even if it is a five year plan.

Median Garden-is good

Boardwalk Garden-Sonja and Sandra did a walk through and Sandra would like to see all the Bayberry removed. Brad will look at the Grapevine and see how much of that could be trimmed

Approval of removal all the Bayberry bushes. The motion was made by Green and seconded by Shank.

Harbor Drive- see discussion above

Boardwalk Sitting Garden- DPW has cleaned up, leveled, and seeded, the area. Plants were dug up and rehomed by various members. The large rocks were relocated and the smaller ones removed temporarily.

9. Old Business- brochures were distributed to various places.

We have 4 dead trees downtown, and we all feel that this is a priority.

Sharon Lanier, President of the Elk Rapids Garden Club, founded in 1931, has requested help with funding from the Beautification Commission. Sharon will speak to us at our next meeting. We currently buy their garden supplies and help when they have to redo a garden.

We talked about weeding the grass in the rosebushes by the boardwalk garden and maybe using tree rings. Sonja will check with Sandra. Susan Green offered to do the weeding in the bushes. We also talked about removing some of the milkweed that sprouts up in various areas.

Joe Pye might be a consideration to plant, as butterflies like this plant.

Hostas might be a good consideration to replace the Bayberries we remove.

Meeting Adjourned with a motion by Shank and a second by Green

Respectfully submitted by Susan Harvey.