

Natural Resources Commission Minutes

August 15, 2019

7 P.M.

Call to Order:

Chair Bob Larson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Bob Larson, Vice Chair Kate Winsor, Commissioners David White and Andrew Hawkins, NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder, and City Council Liaison Mayor Gregg Nelson.

Absent: Commissioners Damien LePoutre and Dan McDermott.

Staff: Recording Secretary Gretchen Needham and City Administrator Mike Robertson.

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Hawkins moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Winsor seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Hawkins moved to approve the July 18, 2019 minutes. Commissioner White seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Update on the Septic Ordinance discussion

A public hearing was held during the August 8 City Council meeting to discuss cesspools in the City and septic systems in general. There were no citizen comments at that meeting. The City Staff and Sanitary Inspector are recommending a point of sale stipulation be adopted by the City. Commissioner Hawkins suggested educating the residents further through articles in the North Oaks News and materials that are posted to the website.

Tick Task Force Report

Commissioner White suggested that Dr. Moore's power point presentation that she gave at the last City Council meeting might be will be the next TTF meeting. Chair Larson circulated an article from the Atlantic magazine, via Commissioner McDermott, about the long-lasting effects of Lyme Disease. The next TTF meeting will be October 15.

Kate Winsor's Report

Vice Chair Winsor is working on securing a table for the NRC at Farm Fest (Sept. 8).

Commissioner Hawkins reached out to a colleague for advice on how promote good pollinator habitats. The Green Steps Cities program is funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) other foundations to promote good practices for sustainable and "green" living.

City Update

Administrator Robertson said he had announced his retirement; applications are starting to trickle in for the City Administrator position.

NOHOA/NEST Update

Liaison Gorder talked about upcoming workshops: one will be about aquatic plants held at Pleasant Lake Beach on Sept. 12, and two workshops will be held in the fall. Oct. 2 will host a lecture about buckthorn and oriental bittersweet, and how to remove it; on Nov. 6 Carp Solutions will give a presentation about their carp study.

The beetles released last May to attack purple loosestrife seem to have been effective. A grant will be applied for to purchase more beetles; beetles may also be found locally at Birch Lake.

Other Business

Metropolitan Mosquito Control has been in the area: they lay out BTI-laced corn pellets, which prevents mosquito larvae from becoming adults.

The City has received some calls about active coyotes lately.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Gorder made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Winsor seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 19, 2019