

Natural Resource Commission Agenda

August 15, 2019 7:00 p.m.

**Community Meeting Room - 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150
North Oaks**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda**
- 4. Approval of July 18, 2019 Minutes**
- 5. Update on Septic Ordinance Discussion**
- 6. Tick Task Force Report**
- 7. Kate Winsor's Report**
- 8. City Update**
- 9. NOHOA/NEST Update**
- 10. Other Business**
- 11. Next Meeting September 19, 2019**

Natural Resources Commission Minutes

July 18, 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, Damien LePoutre (via conference call), Dan McDermott (via conference call), Andrew Hawkins, NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder, and Mayor Gregg Nelson.

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

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner White moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Hawkins seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Hawkins moved to approve the June 20, 2019 minutes. Liaison Gorder seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

North Oaks against Oriental Bittersweet

Administrator Robertson reviewed a recent meeting with Justin Townsend of Ramsey County, City Forester Mark Rehder and NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder. Townsend noted several sites in North Oaks where he had found Oriental Bittersweet. Educational information will be provided to residents through the email blast on how they can remove this invasive weed themselves. There is grant money available to the City to help offset the costs of removal. The best treatment time is the fall. Oriental Bittersweet was found most often in the east site of the City. Robertson noted that the City had not received enough grant money to treat every site. He hoped to get the program started this year and to qualify for more money next year.

Review of NRC's Mission Statement

Commissioner White recommended changing a sentence to better explain that invasive species are being managed/controlled.

Vice Chair Winsor moved to accept the NRC Mission Statement as amended. Commissioner Hawkins seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Update on Septic Ordinance Discussion

A public hearing will be held during the August Council meeting to discuss cesspools in the City and septic systems in general. The Staff and Sanitary Inspector are recommending a point of sale stipulation be adopted by the City. MPCA and EPA have good online materials the City could use for education and staff will review this material for dissemination to our residents.

Update on Pollinator Resolution

The Pollinator Resolution passed at the June Council meeting. Commissioner Winsor said local businesses will be contacted about how to better landscape to support pollinators.

Tick Task Force Report

The 2019 City of Excellence Award granted by the League of Minnesota Cities to the North Oaks Tick Task Force was on display at the meeting. Commissioner White thanked the members of the community and the TTF who worked so hard to achieve this accomplishment.

Kate Winsor's Report

Commissioner Winsor will ask the Hill Farm Historical Society if a NRC table will be permitted at the fall festival.

City Update

- The City completed the weed management on the lake this week. More acreage was completed that had been expected, according to Mayor Nelson. NOHOA is planning to assume responsibility for weed removal next year. Liaison Gorder suggested that she will work on a commission including participation of the NRC, NOHOA and VLAWMO to work on this, trying to establish best practices. Mayor Nelson noted that she should review the work previously done by the City, including a review of the delineation surveys performed and advice from the scientist retained by the City.
- City Council has hired a new City Attorney.
- Ramsey County's Hotdog with a Deputy was well attended.
- Night to Unite is Tuesday, August 6.
- The Sheriff's office warns against ongoing thefts from vehicles, garages and homes. Residents should keep vigilant: lock vehicles and garages, in addition to homes, whether you are home or not. The Sheriff's office believes it has caught one of the people involved in the North Oaks robbery.

NOHOA/NEST Update

- Liaison Gorder submitted an article to the North Oaks News about the pollinator workshops in the City.
- VLAWMO has been counting carp in the area and will do so in Pleasant Lake on three separate days in July. The carp are tagged, and next year they will be followed wirelessly. VLAWMO and NOHOA have split the cost of this tagging (\$4500 each). The fish will be harvested in 2021.
- NOHOA small watershed focus groups are being formed to help assist with applying for grants and assist in other projects related to watershed concerns.

Adjournment:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hawkins seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:06 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 15, 2019

MEMO

Date August 12, 2019
To: Natural Resources Commission
From: City Administrator Mike Robertson
Re: City Update

Septic Ordinance – There were no public comments about the proposed change to the septic ordinance. It will be on the Council meeting on September 12 for final approval.

City Administrator Retirement – I announced my retirement on Monday, August 5. I have offered to stay until the new City Administrator is hired or the end of the year, whichever comes first. Applications are due two days before the September Council meeting. If they can set up interviews quickly and the person hired does not have to give much notice they could be here as early as mid-October.