

**CITY OF FRANKLIN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2022**

Approved
February 23, 2022

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

- I. Chairman Linda Horn called the January 12, 2022 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

On roll call, the following were in attendance: Chair Linda Horn, Vice Chair Jamie Groark, Commissioners Patricia Pomahac, James Cieslak, Sudarshan Sharma and Alderman Dan Mayer. Also present was Associate Planner Marion Ecks.

CITIZEN COMMENT

- II. The citizen comment period opened at 7:01 p.m. and closed at 7:01 p.m. No citizens present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the regular meeting of December 8, 2021.

III.

- A. Commissioner Sharma moved and Alderman Mayer seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 8, 2021. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (6-0-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Environmental Commission involvement in Arbor Day 2022 event (tentatively May 7, 2022).

IV.

- A. City Forester, Tom Riha, will be at the February meeting to assist in the selection process of trees and shrubs for Arbor Day on May 1, 2022. Chair Horn will contact the Franklin Public Library as to date of Arbor Day and use of the Fadrow Room in the event of rain. Commissioner Cieslak suggested we fund a "garden give-away" and will provide seed packets to residents attending. He also mentioned use of the Fadrow Room for a program "Gardening for the Birds, Bees and Butterflies." Discussion only. No action taken.

Review of articles for the City of Franklin Newsletter.

- B. Commissioner Pomahac reported no feedback, to date, from Franklin High School regarding submission of environment related topics for future City newsletters. Planner Ecks will submit a "save the date" for Arbor Day, May 7, 2022, in the February newsletter. Discussion only. No action taken.

Update on Buckthorn Subcommittee activity and/or proposals. Survey article/questions for City newsletter.

- C. Vice Chair Groark read through the ten questions for the Buckthorn survey which will be available to City residents online in the February newsletter due for delivery February 18, 2022. The survey will also be available, paper copy, at the Planning Desk at City Hall as well as the Franklin Public Library. Both Alderman Mayer and Commissioner Sharma offered suggestions

for a few questions. The dates for survey submission are February 18th thru March 31, 2022. Discussion only. No action taken.

City of Franklin street tree list update-recommendation to Common Council.

D. Planner Ecks spoke to City Forester, Tom Riha, who will be present at the February meeting to give updates of his review process. Discussion only. No action taken.

Environmental Commission participation in City of Franklin Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Task Force, to provide assistance in revisions to the Natural Resource Protection Standards and other elements of the City of Franklin UDO.

E. Planner Ecks to take recommendation from consulting firm on zoning to Plan Commission for upcoming meeting either February 3rd or March 3, 2022. Discussion only. No action taken.

City water supply testing overview-continuation.

F. Planner Ecks has checked with the City Engineer and questions will be forwarded to the city of Oak Creek for clarification. Discussion only. No action taken.

Landfill life expectancy and future plans.

G. Planner Ecks reported information on the landfill will be available at the February meeting. Discussion only. No action taken.

Request by City of Franklin Library Director Jennifer Loeffel for Environmental Commission Partnership in the HolidayLED Christmas Light Recycling Program of the Franklin Library.

H. Chair Horn and Commissioner Pomahac have each made separate deliveries to Reinders, Inc. in Sussex who coordinates the Christmas light recycling program. Discussion only. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

V.

Natural Resource Features Special Exception application by Stephen R. Mills, President of Bear Development, LLC (Boomtown, LLC, property owner), for the purpose of grading of approximately 23,970 square feet of wetland buffer (temporary) and construction impact (building footprint-permanent) to approximately 1,350 square feet of wetland buffer and construction impact (building footprint-permanent) to approximately 3,586 square feet of wetland setback, property located at 12000 West Loomis Road, zoned R-8 Multiple-Family Residence District and

A. Planner Ecks gave an overview of project and Dan Szczap from Bear Development answered questions and provided further clarification to this application for a NRSE.

Motion #1

Vice Chair Groark moved and Commissioner Sharma seconded a motion to approve an application for a Natural Resource Special Exception (NRSE) by Bear Development based upon the following conditions. On roll call, 5 voted 'aye' and 1 abstained. Motion carried (5-0-0).

a) The applicant shall submit conservation easements for areas of preserved natural resources (§15-4.0103.B.1.d, §15-7.0201.H) for Common Council review and approval, prior to any land disturbing activities.

C-1 Conservancy District (Tax Key Nos. 891-9011-000 and 891-9012-000).

b) The applicant shall obtain all necessary approvals from Federal and State regulatory agencies, (§15-10.0208.B.3) prior to any land disturbing activities.

c) The applicant shall provide plans for management of wetland setback that conforms to the standards of §15-4.0102I for appropriate plantings. Turf grasses are prohibited. Other grasses or native plantings are acceptable. Non-vegetative cover is permitted in areas subject to erosion. Management and implementation information shall be included on development plans including landscape plans and should be reviewed by Planning and City Development.

d) The applicant shall place boulders or other markers to demarcate the wetland setback on the property.

e) The applicant shall make required technical corrections (UDO §15-4.0102 and §15-7.0200) to Natural Resource Protection Plans including information about the limits of fill and related grading from fill permit I20201541, subject to staff approval, prior to the commencement of any land disturbance.

f) The applicant shall clarify why temporary grading impacts are greater under a reduced setback option.

Motion #2

Vice Chair Groark moved and Commissioner Cieslak seconded approval of a motion to approve the reduced front yard 20-foot setback as requested by applicant. On roll call, 5 voted 'aye' and 1 abstained. Motion carried (5-0-0).

Native habitat restoration project (City-wide) in the City of Franklin.

B. Commissioner Cieslak will have further information at the February meeting. He is looking into a grant from SEWISC as well as a new park site in Franklin off of Loomis Road. Discussion only. No action taken.

Funding for Environmental Commission activities.

C. Further discussion of funding for Environmental Commission activities will be discussed at the February meeting. Planner Ecks will provide a template to be used showing details for submission of expenses. Discussion only. No action taken.

Request by Franklin resident Jeremy Stimpson to consider participation in regional Solar Group Buy program.

D. Item to be tabled until February meeting for discussion. Citizen Stimpson was not at the January 12, 2022 meeting. Discussion only. No action taken.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

VI.

- A. February 23, 2022

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources programs or other organizations for presentation at the City of Franklin Library or a room at City Hall-dates/schedule [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions] [tentative date: April, 2022].

VII.

- A. Planner Ecks has checked on availability of the Community room at City Hall. Due to equipment usage and current COVID restrictions this topic will be addressed at the February meeting. Discussion only. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Notice is given that upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information, please contact the Franklin City Clerk's office at (414) 425-7500.

VIII.

Commissioner Cieslak moved and Commissioner Sharma seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting on January 12, 2022 at 9:20 pm. Alderman Mayer left the meeting at 8:50 p.m. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).