

CITY OF FRANKLIN

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.

Franklin City Hall Council Chambers

9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

II. CITIZEN COMMENT

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the regular meeting of August 26, 2020

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ways to improve and expand Arbor Day 2021; involvement of Root-Pike WIN (Watershed Initiative Network), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2001, program in Arbor Day celebration; Arbor Day event(s) planning.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of articles for the City of Franklin Newsletter, from the Root-Pike WIN (Watershed Initiative Network), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2001, program [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions].

B. Root-Pike WIN Root River and Oak Creek Committee Volunteer Program Information.

C. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources programs for presentation at the City of Franklin Library-dates/schedule [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions].

D. Common Council recommendation to add Buckthorn (invasive species) to noxious weed list.

E. Waste Management Group meeting report.

VI. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

A. October 28, 2020

VII. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Environmental Commission involvement in the City of Franklin's National Night Out program 2021.

B. Gardening with native and natural plants.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Notice is given that a majority of the Common Council may attend this meeting to gather information about an Agenda item over which they have decision making responsibility. This may constitute a meeting of the Council per *State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board*, even though the Common Council will not take formal action at this meeting.

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.

CITY OF FRANKLIN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
August 26, 2020

unapproved

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

- I. Chairman Arthur Skowron called the August 26, 2020 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Inspection Services Conference Room, Franklin City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

On roll call, the following were in attendance: Chair Skowron, Vice Chair Horn, Commissioners Cieslak, Hritz and Pomahac and Assistant Planner Ecks attended the meeting in the Inspection Services Conference Room, Franklin City Hall. Alderman Mayer and Alderwoman Wilhelm participated remotely.

CITIZEN COMMENT

- II. The citizen comment period opened at 7:02 p.m. and closed at 7:02 p.m.. No citizens were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the special meeting of May 27, 2020.

III.

- A. Vice Chair Horn moved and Commissioner Hritz seconded approval of the May 27, 2020 special meeting minutes. On roll call vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (6-0-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ways to improve and expand Arbor Day 2021; involvement of Root-Pike WIN (Watershed Initiative Network), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2001, program in Arbor Day celebration; Arbor Day event(s) planning.

IV.

- A. Arbor Day 2021 will be the first Saturday of May 2021. Discussion only. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of articles for the City of Franklin Newsletter, from the Root-Pike WIN (Watershed Initiative Network), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2001, program [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions].

V.

- A. Delivery date for next newsletter is week of September 21, 2021. Discussion only. No action taken.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources programs for presentation at the City of Franklin Library-dates/schedule [this item/event is in

- B. Discussion only. No action taken.

process due to COVID-19 related restrictions].

Presence of Buckthorn (invasive species) in the City of Franklin.

Presentation on and discussion of City of Franklin Natural Resource Protection Standards (Unified Development Ordinance Part 4 Natural Resource Protection).

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Environmental Commission involvement in the City of Franklin's National Night Out program 2021.

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.

C. Alderman Mayer made a motion to recommend that all varieties of buckthorn be added to noxious weed list. This recommendation will be presented to the Common Council for review/approval. On roll call vote all voted 'aye'. Vote carried (6-0-0).

D. Planner Ecks gave an overview of the City of Franklin Natural Resource Protection Plan along with protection standards as outlined in UDO Table 15-4.0100. A copy of Planner Ecks' presentation is attached to minutes for future referral.

VI.

A. September 23, 2020

VII.

A.

VIII. Commissioner Cieslak moved and Commissioner Hritz seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting on August 26, 2020 at 8:12 p.m.. On roll call vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (6-0-0).

Falling Leaves

It is that spectacular time of year. Autumn brings a magnificent show to Wisconsin as the trees turn red and gold with leaves drifting gracefully to the ground. It is beautiful! But fallen leaves can spell trouble for our watersheds. Storm water runoff carries leaf litter and other organic material to the nearest receiving body of water via storm drains. Leaf decomposition in the water results in high levels of phosphorous and nitrogen – far more nutrition than needed. Excess phosphorous and nitrogen cause algal blooms, depleted oxygen, and fish death.

For communities that collect leaves from the streets, a study conducted in 2016 by William Selbig, Research Hydrologist from the USGS in Madison, WI, demonstrated that removing leaf litter and organic debris from the streets **prior to a rain event** reduced the annual total phosphorous load in storm water runoff by 80%. In other words, well-timed leaf collection goes a long way toward phosphorous load reduction. That is a significant amount. Even better, when coupled with decreasing the amount of leaves deposited into the streets, phosphorous and nitrogen yield were further reduced.

We all play a role in protecting water quality. Here's how you can help:

- Compost leaves and other organic yard waste either on-site or at a designated official municipal site.
- Mulch leaves as you mow. It is great for the soil!
- Use leaves as a top dressing or mulch for your garden beds.

We are all in this together! We can enjoy our gorgeous Wisconsin autumns and still protect our precious waters. It's a WIN-WIN

Respectfully submitted by Nan Calvert, Program Manager for Respect Our Waters.

APPROVAL	REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION	MEETING DATE 09/15/2020
REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS	ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION TO ADD BUCKTHORN TO THE LIST OF NOXIOUS WEEDS.	ITEM NUMBER
<p>At the August 26, 2020 meeting of the Environmental Commission, the Commission adopted a motion to recommend that all varieties of buckthorn be added to noxious weed list. The Commission requests that their recommendation be considered by the Common Council for review/approval.</p> <p>Common buckthorn “Rhamnus cathartica” is listed by the WI Department of Natural Resources as a Restricted Invasive Species. It is classified in the City of Franklin as a “Subnoxious weed” under §178-3: Public nuisances affecting health (§178-3.F(2)). Classification as a subnoxious weed means that the City may prohibit the plant from inclusion on landscape plans, however this classification does not require that landowners destroy it.</p> <p>Common Council has previously considered reclassification of buckthorn as a noxious weed in 2012. At that time, several options to address the problem were proposed. The following are four potential options for controlling buckthorn that could be considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classify buckthorn as a noxious weed. With this option, all buckthorn in the City would need to be destroyed. Alternatively, it would need to be kept cut to a height not to exceed 18 inches, and in platted subdivisions which have buildings on more than 50% of the lots, kept cut to a height not to exceed six inches. If it is not destroyed or cut, all properties containing buckthorn would be in violation of the City’s public nuisance ordinance. 2. Require the removal of buckthorn within 50 to 100 feet of all property lines. With this alternative, property owners, or whoever controls or occupies the property, would be required to remove buckthorn within a 50 to 100 foot buffer from all property lines on the property, but not from the entire property. 3. Continue to classify buckthorn as a subnoxious weed. With this option, the City would not make any changes to how it regulates buckthorn. 4. Continue to classify buckthorn as a subnoxious weed, but initiate a public outreach/education effort for identifying and removing buckthorn. <p>In addition to the above, other land management and invasive species control options exist but would require further research by staff.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED</p> <p>A motion to act on the above item as the Common Council deems appropriate.</p>		

Waste Dump Update

9-15-2020

I recently had 2 phone conversations with Marv Wolf, who chairs the Waste Dump Oversight Committee. Marv not only heads the committee, he lives near the site and his well is one of those tested regularly. He is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about discussing the operation and oversight process. The following summarizes our conversations:

Marv can be reached at 414-559-9605.

The committee meets 4 times a year @ Waste Management Office

You can also contact Katy Rivedal @ city hall for records

Dump site brings in over \$1 million to the city each year

Original expansion plans halted, they could have gone east to 92 St

Lands formerly owned by WM east of 112 St being given to city

Two new 6 acre sections, adjoining dump, open this year

An environmental corridor east and north of dump is being created

Methane from our dump not being burned off but used to generate 8 KW of power

Most complaints about methane smell actually involve marsh areas and not the dump

Katy wasn't sure if minutes should be posted, but they now will be

Next committee meeting is scheduled for November

Most recent well test results are due next month

Anyone interested in a tour?

My only concern – well tests for the year have been delayed due to COVID work at the lab

Jim Cieslak

Franklin Environmental Commission Proposal

9-15-2020

GARDENING FOR THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

This initiative is a pilot project involving environmental groups and the City of Franklin, in an attempt to improve urban habitat for native birds and all pollinators. Projects such as this have become a new priority for nature groups, in response to the steep decline in bird and pollinator populations. This will be done through the re-introduction of native plant communities in place of turf-grass lawns and traditional landscaping. In addition to helping the bird and insect populations, it is expected that the project will demonstrate the aesthetics of alternatives to large grass lawns, as well as the economic and environmental savings made possible from doing so.

Any residential property owner can participate in this pilot. Advice from environmental groups will be provided in site selection, plant selection and ongoing care. For those with existing gardens, advice will also be available to convert to native plants and shrubs.

At the end of each summer, property owners can opt-in to an award contest that will recognize features such as: best bird friendly yard, best butterfly and bee habitat, and best native landscaping. It is expected that the awards will include a modest cash prize as well as special discounts from local nurseries and garden centers. Possible other components include:

A commercial property owners award

Possible coalition members – Audubon, Wild Ones, Nature Conservancy, WSO, Milwaukee Land Trust, City of Franklin, Root-Pike-Win

Scout, youth and church groups could be used to help the elderly or disabled with planting

The city may wish to offer public gardens for adoption to civic or gardening groups

This proposal will be further refined in the months ahead, and is being presented to the commission at this time to encourage discussion, comment and suggestions. I anticipate that it will be MY primary activity in the year ahead.

James Cieslak