

**Properties Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**August 12, 2020, 9:00 a.m.**

**Members Present:** Chairwoman Nairn, Councilman Galicki, Fiscal Officer Romanowski

**Visitors:** Collin Cunningham, CVT

The Properties Committee meeting was called to order by Council Member Cindy Nairn, Committee Chair, at 9:00 a.m. The first item of business was the topic of the South Russell Village Cemetery. In the early planning stages of the Cemetery, Councilman John Dishong suggested investigating a natural screen of evergreens along Chillicothe Rd. to reduce traffic noise. Mayor Koons recently resurrected the idea of planting a row of conifers in an effort to reduce street noise in the Cemetery. Nairn stated that she would introduce the subject at the September Council meeting. A discussion followed and it was suggested that she contact a few nurseries to get cost estimates to present to Council in September. Nairn volunteered to engage some local nurseries to obtain rough cost estimates and to discuss the impact of road salt/salt spray on the plantings.

The next item of business discussed was a motion made by Nairn to officially cancel the Fall Festival due to the impact of the COVID virus on the community. The motion was universally supported by all present. A notice will be placed on the Village website and the Village will send an e-blast to inform the public.

The third item of business was introduced by Nairn and pertained to the subject of the Veterans Memorial stone placed at the foot of the flag at the intersection of Chillicothe and Bell Roads. It was Nairn's opinion that the memorial stone was not visible due to the plantings near the stone. There was discussion about the potential of moving the plantings to another area. Nairn stated that the Mayor suggested that the plantings be moved to the Cemetery. Nairn stated that she did not support moving the plantings because in her opinion they were in "bad shape." She expressed the opinion that the Village consider moving or replacing the bushes in the area. She felt that the corner needed to be "cleaned up."

Galicki stated that he seemed to remember that Kathy O'Donnell, a former South Russell Village Council member, expressed concern about moving the plantings and she wanted them to remain at the current location. Galicki recalled that the Mayor had stated at an earlier Council meeting that he was going to speak to Mrs. O'Donnell about the issue. It was unknown whether or not this conversation took place or what the outcome may have been.

The next order of business was a discussion about replacing of a memorial tree at the corner of Chillicothe and Bell Roads that was planted in memory of Sally Butz-Voss. The Butz-Voss family met with Mayor Koons and Nairn on August 10<sup>th</sup> and discussed placing a new memorial tree in the Village Park at Village expense. Nairn indicated that the Mayor wanted to consider starting a "memorial tree program." No details of the proposed program were provided. It was

suggested by Nairn that if this program were the Mayor's proposal, that he would introduce the idea at a future Council meeting. Questions were raised in an ensuing discussion about the details of the program with respect to honoring deceased elected officials and the source of funding for the program. It was stated that the Butz-Voss family would be purchasing a plaque for the memorial tree.

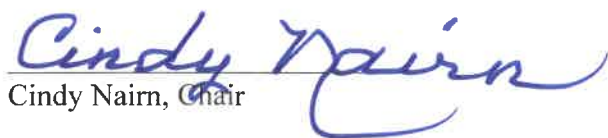
Nairn suggested drafting an article for the next Village newsletter that discussed the details of purchasing memorial trees by all citizens. Nairn suggested that the Village have a formalized program for trees purchased at private citizens' expense and a determination made as to which plantings would be covered under Village expense. It was also suggested that the program, when introduced, address replacement of trees that may die and determine who would bear the expense.

Nairn then discussed whether the details were known for the educational piece of the grant funded stormwater control projects. She inquired whether anyone knew if the most recent presentation by Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) was a piece of this education requirement. Nairn would contact CRWP and others involved in the project to investigate what the scope of the educational requirements were.

The next subject for discussion was the offer to the Village from Mrs. Catani of the garden gazebo currently located at the Geauga County Bainbridge Library. The gazebo was being offered at no cost to the Village with the exception of those costs incidental to the move/relocation. Nairn would speak with the Street Commissioner about the feasibility of the move. She suggested that the committee recommend holding a Special Council meeting to discuss the issue. She would speak to the Mayor and Fiscal Officer about the issue.

The final item of discussion was a suggestion that the Village adopt a policy which identified highly perforable or high value property and established inventory/accountability lists from which to hold annual inventories. The idea received unanimous support from those present at the committee meeting. More discussion will follow on this issue.

The Properties Committee meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

  
Cindy Nairn, Chair

Prepared by Leslie Galicki