



**THE VILLAGE OF HAWTHORN WOODS  
HAWTHORN WOODS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE MEETING  
2 LAGOON DRIVE, HAWTHORN WOODS, ILLINOIS  
APRIL 27, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Ms. Lobaito called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Roll call indicated the following members were present: Appaji Valavala, Margo Pelak, Beth Ann Dodge, Beryl Ibbotson, Bob Riddle, Lauren Vondrasek, Karen Johanson, Sally Folkes. Absent were Samina Imtiaz, Farah Laman, Megan Masana, and Tracy Allen.

Also present were Chief Operating Officer Pamela Newton, Chief Administrative Officer and Village Clerk Donna Lobaito, Parks and Recreation Director Brian Sullivan.

Ms. Lobaito noted that due to the ongoing pandemic and the governor's executive order, it is impractical to meet in person; therefore, the meeting was being held via Zoom. Ms. Lobaito noted that she was present at Village Hall.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND NEW MEMBER**

Ms. Newton introduced Sally Folkes as the newest member of the committee.

Ms. Laman joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Ms. Folkes noted she and her husband have resided in Acorn Acres subdivision since 2007, and that she is a master gardener. She earned her master's degree in marketing from the University of Illinois, and recently retired from Dell. She now works part-time at Lake Zurich Florist.

Ms. Newton noted Margo Pelak is stepping down from chairing the committee and that recently Lauren Vondrasek was appointed by the Village Board to serve as the chair.

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE**

None this month.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED OCTOBER 27, 2021**

Motion by Riddle, second by Appaji to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2021 Hawthorn Woods In Bloom Committee.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Valavala, Pelak, Dodge, Ibbotson, Riddle, Laman, Vondrasek, Johanson, Folkes

Nays: None

Absent: Imtiaz, Masana, Allen

Motion carried.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

Ms. Vondrasek provided an overview of the committee's mission and purpose. She also reviewed call to action items and focus for the America In Bloom judges.

##### **A. Chief Operating Officer**

Ms. Newton highlighted the Village's last four years of awards through America In Bloom. The judges will be in town July 17-20, 2022. Ms. Newton and Ms. Johanson highlighted the St. Matthew's upcoming flower show and indicated the Hawthorn Woods In Bloom committee will have a table present. Ms. Johanson reported the theme will be the Roaring 20's, and information will be available about invasive species.

Ms. Newton also reported on an idea from Trustee David whereby traveling flower pots would be created and used at various village events throughout the year. These pots would promote the Hawthorn Woods In Bloom chapter of America In Bloom.

Lastly, Ms. Newton announced she learned today Hawthorn Woods has been designated by the Audubon Society as a Certified Audubon Community.

##### **B. Parks and Recreation Update**

Mr. Sullivan reported dirt will be delivered to the police station by Friday for plantings. Hawthorn Gardens and Country Bumpkin will once again provide pollinator kits for sale. The annual Arbor Day tree sapling give away will take place on May 7 from 9:00 a.m. – noon. He will be working on the traveling flower pots as Ms. Newton described above. The Village is in receipt of money from the Rotary to purchase and plant pollinator plugs in our landscape islands throughout the community. Apex Landscaping will have all islands cleaned by this Friday to allow for the plantings to take place mid-May. Lastly, Mr. Sullivan reported on the buckthorn removal efforts from last year continuing into this year.

**V. COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES/IDEAS**

A. Flowers and Landscape

Ms. Ibbotson said she did some weeding by the police department, and is waiting for the weather to improve.

B. Celebrate Heritage

No report this month.

C. Monarch Butterflies/Pollinators

Ms. Vondrasek noted work will begin soon in this area.

D. Urban Forestry

Ms. Vondrasek noted work will begin soon in this area. She thanked Mr. Sullivan for his hard work.

E. Fundraising and Special Events

Mr. Riddle reported he would like to get the popcorn machine out at Village events this summer.

Ms. Vondrasek reviewed the committee appointments and membership. The committee discussed the Garden of the Month program, and Ms. Johanson agreed to chair this committee. Ms. Johanson will share some information she has regarding judging home gardens. Ms. Newton will send Ms. Johanson guidelines and nominating papers the Village developed last year regarding Garden of the Month.

The committee also discussed the need for a public relations committee. Ms. Pelak agreed to chair this committee, and Ms. Folkes will assist. Ms. Vondrasek asked for volunteers to chair the Monarch Butterflies/Pollinator and the Urban Forestry committees.

Various important dates were reviewed. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Johanson, second by Riddle to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Valavala, Pelak, Dodge, Ibbotson, Riddle, Laman, Vondrasek, Johanson,  
Folkes

Nays: None

Absent: Intiazi, Masana, Allen

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Lobaito  
Village Clerk