

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH COMMISSION OF
THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BARRINGTON, WHICH WAS HELD
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2013 AT
THE NORTH BARRINGTON VILLAGE HALL
111 OLD BARRINGTON ROAD IN SAID VILLAGE**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

At 7:29 P.M. Chairman Bruce Kramper called the meeting to order and the Deputy Village Clerk called the roll:

Present in Person:	Vice Chairman Patty Kalinowski, Jackie Andrew, Rob Haas
Absent:	Chairman Bruce Kramper
Also Present:	Susan Allman, Village Forester Gery Herrmann, Trustee Jim Vandelogt, Biltmore Country Club Brian Thomson, Biltmore Country Club Golf Course Superintendent Pat Ryan, 404 Concord Lane Nicole Keiter, Deputy Village Clerk

**2. Approval of Past Minutes: Environmental and Health Commission Meeting
December 4, 2012**

The Minutes of the December 4, 2012 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting were made available to the Commission.

Motion: Jackie Andrew moved that the Minutes of the December 4, 2012 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting be approved; seconded by Rob Haas.

Discussion: There was some discussion.

Vote on Motion: The voice vote was unanimous in favor.

Vice Chairman Patty Kalinowski declared the Minutes of the December 4, 2012 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting approved as written, and put on file.

**3. Biltmore Country Club Heritage Tree Appeal
Jim Vande Logt, Biltmore Country Club
Brian Thomson, Biltmore Country Club Golf Course Superintendent**

Jim Vande Logt, Biltmore Country Club, thanked the Commission for hearing the appeal. Mr. Vande Logt stated that the Country Club was hoping to remove tree number 784. He stated that this particular tree is a maple tree and has shown signs of rot and decay at the base. He also stated that this tree does not come into play with the course and that the Club was hoping to replace it with a bald cypress. Mr. Vande Logt stated that the golf club currently has maple trees as 14% of its tree population and less than 1% is bald cypress. He stated that with the maple tree in its current location they are not able to plant anything else around it due to shading. The Club is looking to plant approximately 10-15 bald cypress trees once the maple is removed, and is hoping to create a grove appearance. There is currently

a horseshoe shape in the planting which, due to only having a singular line of trees present, looks unnatural. Mr. Vande Logt told the Commission that the Club replanted on a 2 for 1 ratio over the last two years. He stated that this year replanting had been a 1 for 1 ratio.

The Commission asked if Biltmore was planning to plant 2 inch trees in replacement of the heritage tree being removed. Mr. Vande Logt stated that the plan was to plant 2 inch trees and acknowledged that, from an inches perspective, the tradeoff was skewed. Mr. Vande Logt also reminded the Commission that in the 1970's the Country Club participated in a program to plant trees. Unfortunately no one considered what the trees would be like in the future, and at that time there was no Ordinance regarding tree removal. The Country Club is now left with poor tree placement and is tied by Ordinances affecting their removal. It was stated that the Club is now researching areas where trees can be planted and years from now growth won't be a problem.

Vice Chairman Kalinowski asked if the pH level of the peat bog, where the trees are to be planted, was known. She stated that the pH levels would affect the tree growth. Brian Thomson, Biltmore Country Club Golf Course Superintendent, stated that there is approximately 20 – 30ft of peat and only a certain type of tree will be able to grow in it. Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that the silver maple does well in this area whereas the bald cypress isn't natively found this far North. Mr. Vande Logt stated that the peat, and the instability associated with it, assists in tree decay. He also stated that one maple would look out of place in a grove of bald cypress. He stated that the Country Club cares about the community and the aesthetics, but ultimately needs to be competitive as a golf club and needs to retain its Audubon certification.

Vice Chairman Kalinowski asked if the tree in question was about 30 years old. While the exact age was not known, it was stated that it could be approximately that age. Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that her research said this particular type of tree could live to be 120-130 years old. Vice Chairman Kalinowski asked how old the bald cypress trees were that are currently there and it was stated that they were about 15 years old. Mr. Haas asked what the extent of damage was to the tree. Mr. Thomson stated that the inside is completely hollow and that an entire camera was put inside the tree. He also reiterated that the naturalized area was the end goal. Mr. Haas asked for clarification on why the other maples that were in the area were removed. It was stated that they had rotted.

Susan Allman, Village Forester, stated that the other trees that had been removed were all less than 20 inches and weren't considered Heritage trees, therefore no permit was required. She stated that it was important to note that a tree can be dead on the inside and sustain itself as trees grow from the outside, not the inside. She stated that Biltmore Country Club maintains their trees very well and that the tree in question was on their removal list last fall to which she denied their request. Ms. Allman also clarified the fact that bald cypress trees do grow here now even though they are not native to the area.

Ms. Andrew asked both parties which option would be better ten years from now. Mr. Vande Logt stated that the golf course is trying to diversify their tree population and also create a more natural looking area. Ms. Allman stated that the horseshoe will not disappear and that the Club would actually be creating a monoculture. She stated that the trees would be vulnerable to disease. Ms. Allman reiterated the fact that Biltmore had removed other Heritage trees and this was the only one that had been denied and in total they have removed 51 Heritage trees. Mr. Thomson stated that the only option the Ordinance allowed was to cut down the nine cypress trees currently there. He also stated that there were two trees this past fall and several the year before that the Club removed from their removal list to compromise. He stated that the Club worked around those trees in trying to show good faith, which has made them change their plans a few times before. Vice Chairman Kalinowski asked what the

outcome would be if the cypress trees were planted under the maple and the outcome would be determined based upon which grew best. Mr. Thomson said that, based upon professional opinions, it wouldn't be a good idea to plant trees under one that could potentially rot and fall down. It was also stated that the Club wouldn't spend money purchasing new trees that could potentially die soon thereafter. The Club also stated that they thought there was a verbal agreement in place that would allow the removal of tree number 784.

Ms. Andrew asked the Country Club representatives how they felt about having a certified arborist take a look at the tree, as the Ordinance states. Mr. Vande Logt stated that he did not believe it would be necessary, as no one can state with certainty how long a tree will live. Mr. Haas wanted clarification that the other cypresses would have to be planted in the shading of the maple. The clarification was affirmed.

Motion: Rob Haas moved that the Environmental and Health Commission deny Biltmore Country Club's Heritage Tree removal appeal; seconded by Jackie Andrew.

Discussion: There was some discussion.

Vote on Motion:

Ayes:	Vice Chairman Patty Kalinowski, Jackie Andrew, Rob Haas
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Chairman Bruce Kramper

Vice Chairman Patty Kalinowski declared the motion approved.

Ms. Andrew stated that unfortunately the Environmental and Health Commission had to uphold the Ordinance as it was written and thanked Biltmore for their time.

4. Old/New Business

Trustee Herrmann updated the Commission on the Flint Creek project. He stated that there was a resident meeting where discussion regarding easements occurred. He stated that there was concern from residents that the Village will only fund maintenance on the project for two years when the grant requires ten years. Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that the agreement form had been distributed and did not reflect the ten year period. Ms. Andrew stated that the project is occurring on private property and that the residents should be grateful for the work being done. Trustee Herrmann stated that as soon as someone puts anything in the creek on his property he cannot touch it without permission from the Army Corps, which was a major concern. Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that many residents still had questions; however, another meeting was scheduled for February 6th. The Commission was concerned with what happened to the grant money if the project wasn't completed at 100% as stated, for instance, if a resident decided to opt out of the project.

5. Adjournment

Motion: Jackie Andrew moved the Meeting be adjourned; seconded by Rob Haas.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote on Motion: The voice vote was unanimous in favor.

At 8:28 p.m. Vice Chairman Patty Kalinowski declared the meeting adjourned.

These Minutes were approved at the Environmental and Health Commission "Special" Meeting held March 7, 2013.

ATTEST:

_____, Nicole Keiter, Deputy Village Clerk