

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH COMMISSION OF
THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BARRINGTON, WHICH WAS HELD
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2011 AT
THE NORTH BARRINGTON VILLAGE HALL
111 OLD BARRINGTON ROAD IN SAID VILLAGE**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

At 7:35 P.M. Chairman Bruce Kramper called the meeting to order and the Deputy Village Clerk called the roll:

Present in Person:	Chairman Bruce Kramper, Vice Chairman Patty Kalinowski, Rob Haas
Absent:	Jackie Andrew
Also Present:	Susan Allman, Village Forester Richard Gilbert, President, Biltmore Country Club Jim Vande Logt, Green Committee Chair, Biltmore Country Club Katherine Grover, 173 N. Signal Hill Road Karen Hunter, 444 Signal Hill Road Pete Boland, Village Trustee Nicole Keiter, Deputy Village Clerk

**2. Approval of Past Minutes: Environmental and Health Commission Meeting
December 7, 2010**

The Minutes of the December 7, 2010 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting were made available to the Commission.

Motion: Vice Chairman Patty Kalinowski moved that the Minutes of the December 7, 2010 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting be approved; seconded by Rob Haas.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

Chairman Bruce Kramper declared the Minutes of the December 7, 2010 Environmental and Health Commission Meeting approved, and put on file.

3. Biltmore Tree Program

Chairman Kramper stated that Biltmore Country Club had made a presentation to the Board at the January Board meeting and that President Sauer had stated that the matter would be turned over to the Environmental and Health Commission for recommendation. The Commission's recommendation will be needed at the February Board Meeting.

Richard Gilbert, Biltmore Country Club President, addressed the Commission and provided an overview of the long range forestry plan of tree removal and addition for the golf course. Mr. Gilbert noted that the plan is consistent with United States Golf Association (USGA) recommendations and good golf course design and maintenance.

Mr. Gilbert stated that the Biltmore Country Club (BCC) maintains Audubon certification and believes that trees serve an important role on the course and in the community. There are approximately 2,000 trees on the course and estimates that 500-800 are classified as a “heritage” trees under the Village’s heritage tree ordinance. BCC proposes to remove thirty-one (31) heritage trees over the course of three years.

Jim Vande Logt, Green Committee Chair, Biltmore Country Club, addressed the Board.

Mr. Vande Logt stated that BCC had an extensive tree planting program in the 1970’s and ‘80’s called Trees for Tomorrow, which nearly a thousand trees were planted. Trees were overplanted in order to achieve a quicker impact on the golfing experience, however; now the trees have matured.

It was noted that BCC has two full-time horticulturalists for maintaining trees. Trees are pruned in the fall and winter by professional tree pruning services. BCC utilizes services from the USGA to assist with forestry and golf course plans.

Mr. Vande Logt explained that the proposal consists of removing nine (9) trees immediately followed by the planting twenty-three (23) trees in the spring of 2011. A total of seventeen (17) trees would be removed in 2011. For the first year, two (2) trees would be planted for one (1) tree removed. During the second and third years, one (1) tree would be planted for one (1) tree removed.

Mr. Gilbert noted that the Village’s current Village Code does not include language exempting golf courses from the preservation and heritage tree ordinances. BCC requested a reduction in the amount of the tree bond as the amount is substantial. At the Board meeting, Trustee Boland suggested that the E&H Commission examine whether the club could use a letter of credit rather than a tree bond and Village Attorney J.W. Braithwaite additionally suggested that the E&H Commission examine the language of other municipal ordinances as the Village’s ordinance does not direct the club as a “unique use.” After the presentation had been completed, Chairman Kramper welcomed any questions/comments from the audience and Commission.

Karen Hunter, 444 Signal Hill Road, stated that removing the number of trees proposed by BCC would change the balance in nature for the animals that use them for food and shelter. She also stated that she feels as if there are other places BCC could place trees so that they meet the requirements of the Heritage Tree Ordinance, such as along Route 59 or their shoreline.

Katherine Grover, 173 N. Signal Hill Road, stated that if BCC could not replace the required number of trees on their property, that they should consider planting the remaining trees on public property. Mr Gilbert stated that it would be a possibility; however, he did not want to commit the BCC Board members to anything without speaking with them first.

Susan Allman, Village Forester, stated that she had spoken with Brian Thomson, Golf Club Superintendent, and walked the course with him. Chairman Kramper and Jackie Andrew had also gone around the course to see the trees in question. She stated that she thought some of the trees they were asking to remove didn’t necessarily need to be removed and wouldn’t solve their problems. Ms. Allman stated that she did not believe a blanket approval for a large-scale project like this would be the best way to handle their request. Her recommendation to the Commission was as follows:

A. Regarding the long-range tree plan request:

BCC Grounds Manager and Village Forester review the Heritage Trees they want to cut down on an annual basis.

Consider a set tree bond for BCC.

Determine the tree replacement as part of the annual review process. Should BCC want to pursue the removal of a Heritage Tree that the Village Forester denies, the Country Club will need to provide a written evaluation of the tree from an independent arboricultural consultant. The Country Club and Forester will agree in advance on the consultant to be hired.

B. Ms. Allman does not recommend that any changes be made to North Barrington's Heritage Tree Ordinance. Our large trees are what sets us apart from many other Chicagoland suburbs.

Of the first nine trees, which are to be removed immediately, Ms. Allman stated that she had denied trees numbered 1,2,3,4, and 5. She also stated that 6 and 7 were approved and that 8 and 9 were not on the original list. Mr. Gilbert stated that the membership at BCC would not want to remove number 9 until absolutely necessary anyway.

Chairman Kramper stated that the Commission would go through each concern separately and asked the Commission members for their thoughts. The first concern was the issue of tree bonds. Trustee Boland stated that the Village would be very receptive to negotiations with a Letter of Credit at a fixed amount. Mr. Gilbert stated that BCC membership would not want any more debt. Chairman Kramper stated that he believed the issue could be worked out through negotiations with the Village Forester and that he didn't want to see this escalate into a problem since BCC has been quintessential in the character of the Village and helping with Eton Park.

The next concern was the number of trees to be replaced. Mr. Haas stated that he did not want a precedent to be set because it would not be fair to residents and other homeowners. He also stated that he wasn't sure every tree on the list should be removed for reasons such as "making a golf shot." Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that she was not in favor of making an exemption either. She stated that she did not feel as if this was a reason to re-write or change the Heritage Tree Ordinance. She also stated that no one from BCC came to any meetings prior to the Ordinance being passed to ask for an exemption. She asked BCC if they had any plans to re-vamp the course in the future. Mr. Gilbert stated that they would like to; however, they won't be financially able to in respect to their 3-year plan. Vice Chairman Kalinowski stated that she would like to see any replacement to be done with more native trees either on Biltmore's property or somewhere else. Chairman Kramper stated that he believed the number of replacement trees could be negotiated with the Village Forester. He also stated that he was not in favor of a blanket exemption either. He also stated that he does not have any problem with the removal of the first 9 trees that were to be removed immediately. Mr. Haas suggested that the BCC project be reviewed on an annual and ongoing basis in case plans change, etc. Chairman Kramper stated that Ms. Allman and Mr. Thomson could meet in the spring and discuss the next set of trees on the list labeled as year 1 trees. They could then report back to the E&H Commission and decisions could be made later. The Commission wanted to state that they appreciated the fact that BCC had taken it upon themselves to devise a tree replacement program in conjunction with their removal program.

The Commission's recommendation to the Board was to allow the removal of the first 9 trees labeled for immediate removal. They also suggested that the tree bond issue and amount of tree replacement be negotiated with the Village Forester. The Commission does not recommend changing the Heritage Tree Ordinance in any way.

4. Old/New Business

Ms. Allman stated that she would like to do Arbor Day events this year at Eton Park on April 30th. She stated that she spoke with the Parks Commission and that they supported having the event at Eton Park; however, they felt as if any money used for the event should come from the Forestry budget, the E&H Commission budget, or a combination of those. She stated that the tree planted this year would be at Eton Park and asked the Commission to consider some ideas such as: a neighborhood clean-up, tree demonstrations provided by a local tree service, nature themed storyteller, small tree/shrub sale, Mark from Stillman Nature Center with local raptors, refreshments, free trees, working with Parks Commission on a "Tree Trail" at Eton park, and/or native plantings in road way triangles. Chairman Kramper stated that the Commission would consider these ideas and would discuss it at the next meeting.

Chairman Kramper stated that Susan Allman had resigned from the Environmental and Health Commission, but would remain as Village Forester. He stated that the Commission will miss her, but asked her to attend meetings, give reports, and insight. He also stated that the Commission thanks her for her years of hard work and devotion. Chairman Kramper also stated that the Commission would benefit from having new people join and suggested that someone from BCC consider joining.

5. Adjournment

Motion: Vice Chairman Kalinowski 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 9:18 p.m. Chairman Bruce Kramper declared the meeting adjourned.

These Minutes were approved at the Environmental and Health Commission Meeting held March 8, 2011.

ATTEST:

_____, Nicole Keiter, Deputy Village Clerk

