

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**March 22, 2023 7:00 pm**

Members Present: Bobbi Strangfeld, Gail Bason, Jerome Guest, Daniele Eller, Sheri Callaghan, Flemming Holm, Todd Wales, and Mike Lippert (Staff Representative).

Minutes of February 22, 2023

Minutes were approved

Old Business:

Stearns Woods Update – A handful of wildflowers have been noted so far this spring: Harbinger of Spring, Toothwort, Virginia Bluebell, Snow Drop and Yellow Trout Lilly in addition to Winter Aconite. These have been GPS surveyed. Additional surveying is continuing through April. Todd agreed to GPS the trees in Stearns Woods.

Stearns Woods Wildflower walks (Starts March 26) – Three dates have been set up for wildflower walks this Spring. The first date is this Sunday, March 26 with 2 walks planned (1 pm and 2:15 pm). There are already 12 people signed up for the 1 pm tour. Two more walks are scheduled for April (April 8, 22). Residents may sign-up online. Bobbi requested 4-6 helpers each walk to help with managing parking and assisting Carol.

Stearns Woods Clean-up schedule – Gail is leading these efforts and will work with city staff in advertising. She has tentatively set a date of April 29 as the first clean-up date. She will verify if herbicides are needed and make the necessary request to the city. Garlic mustard, honeysuckle, eunonymous and vines will be targeted for removal. Ash tree whips may also be thinned out. Hand pruners are recommended for workers. Flemming hopes to document the activities with a log of volunteers, photos, chemicals used, etc. It is hoped to continue working near where invasives were removed last year.

Stearns Woods Mini-grant update – UFBC is assisting the City in submitting another Taking Root grant in 2023. Submittals for Spring mini-grants are due before June with plantings scheduled for fall. Bobbi/Sean are preparing. It appears our last application can be updated fairly easily for resubmittal.

Arbor Day 2023: - Adam Beard of Vermont has been contacted. Final plans still need to be made. The program should be similar to previous Arbor Days with preliminary comments, mayor proclamation, and finally the scavenger hunt for trees, etc. Mike and Jerome thought they could assist.

UFBC Annual Report to Council – UFBC plans to present the annual report at the April City Council meeting. Andrea and Bobbi will work on the powerpoint preparation. Send photos to Andrea. A presenter is likely needed.

New Business:

Miscellaneous: The commission discussed obtaining visors or t-shirts to identify members at various events. T-shirts were generally preferred. UFBC had a previous t-shirt made several years ago. Flemming will get with Rusty about the old UFBC logo to see if that was acceptable to use on new t-shirts. If not, a new t-shirt design will be needed.

Flemming briefly discussed the vision/mission statement for Stearns Woods and is preparing a workplan after receipt of information from Bobbi and Sean. It is hoped UFBC will get this document finalized before presenting a plan of budget needs to the city in late summer for 2024 work.

Next meeting will be April 26, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert