

DeKalb County Forest Preserve District
Sycamore, Illinois

**Forest Preserve Operations Committee Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2023**

The Forest Preserve Operations Committee of the DeKalb County Board met at Afton Forest Preserve, DeKalb, Illinois on Thursday, September 28, 2023. Chair Roy Plote called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Those Members present were Mary Cozad, Meryl Domina, Benjamin Haier, Maureen Little, and Stewart Ogilvie. A quorum was established with six Members present, one absent. Member Terri Mann-Lamb arrived at 6:21 pm.

Others present included Forest Preserve Superintendent Terry Hannan and Recording Secretary Lisa Reser.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Haier moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ogilvie seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Cozad, seconded by Little and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2023 Forest Preserve Operations Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

REPORTS OF FOREST PRESERVE OFFICIALS

Mr. Hannan reported a summary of the 2023 quarterly report for the months of July, August, and September. The report outlines the work completed at the DeKalb County Forest Preserves. In September, the Sycamore Forest Preserve was the site for the Sycamore St. Mary's School Family Fun Run and the Sycamore Methodist Church Crop Walk for Hunger. Mr. Hannan informed the Committee the Northwest Suburban Astronomers will be hosting a Public Star Party on December 8, 2023 at the Afton Forest Preserve in DeKalb, Illinois. Lastly, Mr. Hannan shared that "Jeff's Trees" will be on October 7, 2023 at the Potawatomi Woods Forest Preserve in Kirkland, Illinois. A special tree will be planted to honor Peggy Arnold VanDeusen who passed away this year. Jeff's Tree's family and friends have donated benches and planted trees every Fall for the last 17 years at various forest preserve sites. To view the 2023 quarterly report for the months of July, August, and September on the website, please visit the link below:

<https://dekalbcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/fp-rpt23sep-forestpreserve.pdf>

Mr. Hannan provided a brief history of Afton Forest Preserve. The original 240 acres of land, a rolling "worn out" farm with only one Cottonwood tree on the property, was purchased by DeKalb County in 1973. Later, in 2007, an additional 76 acres were purchased at auction and became Afton South Prairie. To view Afton and Afton South Prairie Forest Preserve on the website, please visit the link below:

<https://dekalbcounty.org/departments/forest-preserve/afton/>

Immediately following tonight's meeting, Terry Hannan will lead the Committee on a prairie and wetland tour of Afton Forest Preserve.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Hannan reported he is still waiting for the final sale contract from Michael Schelkopf for the acquisition of property in Kingston Township for the Genoa to Kingston Trail (G2K Trail) before moving forward to the Forest Preserve District Commissioners. Mr. Hannan added language in the contract to address Mr. Schelkopf's field tile concerns on the property.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Domina moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm. Mann-Lamb seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Reser.