

Parks Committee Minutes Village of Shorewood Hills

Monday, October 24, 2016

Bigfoot Park & Old Fire Station/DPW Building

1. Meeting called to order at 5:36 pm by committee chair Anne Readel.
 - a. **Roll Call:** Members Present: Kathie Brock, Sue Denholm, Roma Lenehan, Nancy Heiden, Georgene Stratman, and Anne Readel. Others Present: Village Forester Corey George, Village Administrator Karl Frantz, and Village residents – Jim Berbee, Michael Bernhard, Nancy Doll, Kirk Brown, Margaret Marriot, Joe Meara, and Karen Rebholz.
 - b. **Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** The meeting was properly posted.
 - c. **Approval of Minutes.** Minutes of the September 12, 2016 meeting were approved.
2. **Bigfoot Park.** For the first half of the meeting, the Committee met with residents at Bigfoot to discuss restoration options and the Parks Committee's role in restoration at this site. The following topics were discussed:
 - a. Drainage:

Karl Frantz gave information about the drainage swale the Public Works crew has been working on at the eastern edge of Village property and very close to the Bernhard lot. ACTION: The Public Works crew agreed that the drainage spillway would be reworked to curve away from neighbor's steep hillside and to slow the flow of water.

Furthermore, neighbors Brown and Bernhard pointed out that the size of the gravel recently installed would not stay in place in moderate to heavy rain events. Both have extensive experience on their properties with steep, lakeside drainage of rainwater that races down Edgehill and Sunset, shoots over storm drains and funnels to the lake through their yards and the outlet. Karl assured them that larger stone would be installed.
 - b. Screening of Berbee mechanicals & Public Views:

The Forester met with Jim Berbee and his landscaper on October 19th to discuss planting options near his property line with Bigfoot Park. Berbee asked permission to transplant several arborvitae trees from his property to the western edge of Bigfoot Park to provide screening of his mechanicals to neighbors and the public. The Forester gave permission to do this, but also suggested planting evergreens that were less formal looking in the park. Berbee offered to reimburse the Village if they planted other evergreens. The Forester purchased 3 Norway spruce and 2 white pine to plant, but stopped the work when other neighbors expressed concern that these trees would block the lake view. Currently that view

of the lake is moderately open when deciduous trees are bare. They pointed out that there are few lake views in Shorewood Hills for the public to enjoy. The Forester agreed to hold off on planting large evergreens at this time.

ACTIONS: Sue Denholm volunteered to follow up with a few simple, sketched renditions of area for people to consider and build upon.

c. Other Points Addressed:

The Parks Committee reminded people present that in the Village's Long Term Management Plan, Bigfoot is not considered a park to be developed for public use. Historically the area has been treated as a rainwater drainage corridor.

There were suggestions from residents about possibly installing a bench, a split rail fence, and/or other plantings in the area at top of Bigfoot close to the road to create a sitting area with a view of the lake.

3. **EAB Management and Funding.** The Committee reviewed the forestry budget. In particular, the Committee reviewed a draft memorandum that was prepared by Anne and Corey relating to current and anticipated future funding issues surrounding EAB Management. The memorandum recommended that the Board adopt an Urban Forestry Utility to help fund EAB Management. This course of action was recently taken in Madison to address the EAB threat. The Committee unanimously approved submitting the memorandum to the Board for its consideration.
4. **Prescribed Burns in Parks.** The Committee discussed that it would attempt to conduct one controlled burn each year, alternating among sites, if budgetary resources were available. Members of the Committee noted that such burns are known to enhance savannah areas. Kathie noted that prescribed burns, when done correctly, have greatly enhanced native flora in other savannah areas that she has helped manage. However, burns are labor intensive and not always possible due to budgetary constraints. The Committee agreed that if a prescribed burn could be done in the appropriate timeframe and under appropriate conditions, it should be conducted, if the budgetary resources are available.
5. **Adjourned.** The Committee adjourned at 7:35 pm.