

Parks Committee Minutes Village of Shorewood Hills

Wednesday, August 17th 2016
Village Hall – 810 Shorewood Blvd

1. Meeting called to order at 5:34 pm by committee chair Anne Readel

- **Roll Call:** Members Present: Anne Readel, David Boutwell, Kathie Brock, Nancy Heiden, Roma Lenahan, Sue Denholm. Others Present: Village Forester Corey George.
- **Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** Confirmed meeting was properly posted.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the June 13th 2016 meeting were approved.

2. **Emerald Ash Borer and Treatments:**

This invasive insect kills ash trees. Trees attacked by EAB can die within 2-4 years. The Village began treating public ash trees with ‘TreeAge’ in 2014 to prevent EAB. Some Village residents “adopted” ash trees that year to help offset the treatments costs. It’s recommended that ash trees are treated every 2 years with ‘TreeAge’ to prevent EAB. Due to a funding shortfall this year, the annual Ash tree treatments for 2016 have been postponed until spring of 2017.

Oak wilt, Dutch elm disease and storm damaged trees have been extreme this year. This means an increase in costs for tree removals, maintenance and replanting in 2016 and 2017. Therefore the budget shortfall mentioned in the above paragraph.

Mr. George will speak with Karl Frantz regarding a number of funding options to support increased costs for next year. Roma Lenahan volunteered to head a subcommittee for additional fundraising if necessary. Anne Readel will speak with the Village Finance Committee if we determine additional funding is required for 2017.

Homeowners are encouraged to hire a certified arborist for tree management on their own property. Proactive maintenance is far more cost effective than waiting until problems arise. This message will be included in a future article of the Village Bulletin.

3. **Forestry & Parks Budget for 2016-2017:**

Consideration for a Horticultural Consultant was discussed. Consideration for converting a summer seasonal position into a winter position was discussed. Consideration for part time sharing of a Village Crew member with Parks and Forestry was discussed. The Parks Committee is in favor of further exploration on all three topics.

The Parks Committee also supports exploring the feasibility of appointing a Volunteer Coordinator to assist with park stewardship opportunities. Post Farm Park is one

example of need for volunteer assistance with ongoing woodland restoration and forestry projects.

4. **Harvard Drive / University Station Restoration** – The Parks Committee suggests the addition of bird friendly annuals into the area where ground cover and understory restoration is already underway.
5. **Harvard Drive One-Way Woods** – Naturally fallen trees are an important element of healthy woodland ecology. The Parks Committee strongly recommends that fallen trees within Village parks remain in the park woodland unless they present a danger to people or property.
6. **Bigfoot Park (Outlot 2)** – Additional work is needed to improve stormwater runoff problems in the area. The Parks Committee will review restoration needs after the project is complete.
7. **Oak Wilt** – Summer 2016 has been an unusually difficult year with oak wilt and Dutch elm disease. All Red Oaks in Four Corners Park are being treated. Infections and loss of trees have also occurred along Blackhawk Drive and Edgehill Parkway. Village ordinance requires dead tree removal (from Oak Wilt or Dutch Elm Disease) on both public and private property. Difficult or challenging enforcement will be referred to the Village Administration.
8. **Post Farm Park Projects:**
 - A split rail fence was recently installed by Public Works between the natural play area (above the Community Garden) and the wildflower garden maintained by Kathi Dwelle. Initial feedback has been positive. The addition of an interpretive sign for the adjacent wildflowers is under consideration.
 - The Parks Committee suggests that the Natural Play Area Sub Committee consider replacing the underutilized sand volleyball court with a swing set. In addition, there is an underused lawn space behind the Scout Shack. A tire swing might also be considered within the natural play area.
 - A motion was made and passed for the following: “As a committee we strongly recommend the entire open lawn space remain beneath the oaks and continue to be used for swim meets and award ceremonies”.

Future Agenda Item Suggestions – Emerald Ash Borer funding, Oxford Road Spillway, and Harvard Drive & University Station wood side restoration.

Foresters Report – The report was made available in advance by Email and in copies at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm