

Village of Shorewood Hills Parks Committee

Meeting Minutes (Draft subject to review/approval at a future meeting)

Monday, June 6, 2022 - 5:30 PM

Location: Intersection of Viburnum Dr. and Sunset Dr.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Chair Barford.
 - a. **Roll Call:**
 - i. **Committee Members:** Chair Carol Barford, Roma Lenehan, Nancy Heiden, Kathie Brock and David Boutwell. Jeremy Rogers was excused.
 - ii. **Others in Attendance:** Village Forester Adam Lohrmann, new Village Forester Assistant Vincent Garcete, Garden Club Liaison Mary Janet Wellensiek, and the following Village residents:
 1. Ty Cashen, 3310 Blackhawk Dr.
 2. Birk Cooper, 3410 Sunset Dr.
 3. Scott Cooper, 3611 Sunset Dr.
 4. Marya Geiger, 3427 Viburnum Dr.
 5. Andy Curtiss, 3428 Viburnum Dr.
 6. Kate Crowley, 3428 Viburnum Dr.
 7. Jan Tymorek, 1512 Sumac Dr.
 8. Max and Joe Rahder, 3420 Sunset Dr.
 9. Muriel Coleman, 1123 Oak Way
 10. Tricia Underkofler, 3419 Viburnum Dr.
 11. Village President Dave Benforado, 3902 Univ Ave.
 - b. **Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** A.Lohrman confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed.
 - c. **Minute Taker:** D.Benforado volunteered to take minutes at this meeting.
2. **Sunset/Viburnum Triangle Listening Session.** The committee listened to 45 minutes of comments from nearby residents of the Sunset/Viburnum area regarding maintenance and management ideas for the large, wooded triangle area at that intersection. Comments gathered from this listening session will be considered and discussed at the next Parks Committee meeting planned to take place on Mon., July 11.
3. **Approve minutes from May 2, 2022, Parks Committee meeting:**
 - a. Motion by N.Heiden, second by D.Boutwell, to approve the draft minutes from the Committee's May 2 meeting. Motion passed (5-0).
4. **Announcements, Questions and/or Consideration Items for Future Agendas:**
 - a. **Committee Vacancy:** Chair Barford stated that long time Committee member Georgia Stratman had resigned from the Committee which leaves a vacancy on the Committee which will be discussed at a future Parks Committee meeting.

- b. **Loss of Trees due to MMSD Project:** Village President Benforado mentioned that he received an e-mail from Pat Lipton, 3516 Tally Ho Lane, earlier in the day that he had forwarded to Village Administrator Sharon Eveland and Parks Committee Chair Barford, Lipton complaining about the loss of trees north of the railroad tracks caused by last summer's MMSD sewer project.
 - c. **August Committee meeting:** The Committee will discuss whether to hold an August meeting at the July 11 Parks Committee meeting.
 - d. **Sunset/Viburnum Triangle:** the Committee will consider and discuss the feedback from Village residents regarding the Sunset/Viburnum triangle of land.
 - e. **Other Matters Previously Discussed for Future Agenda Items:**
 - i. Composition of Picnic Tables in Village Parks.
 - ii. Staff Support for Note Taking.
 - iii. Lake Mendota Drive Bridge Replacement Update (perhaps making this a standing agenda item through construction planned in 2023).
 - iv. Community Forestry Management Plan Grant Process – Update.
 - v. Monthly Forester's Report.
5. **Motion to adjourn** by N.Heiden, second by K.Brock, motion passed (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted by D.Benforado (June 6, 2022).

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD HILLS

Forestry and Parks

Report for July, 2022: Adam Lohrmann, Forester

Welcome to Vicente Garcete, Forestry and Parks Assistant- Vicente is a long-time Shorewood Hills resident with many ties to other resident families through his prior work with local students as an athletic coach. He is highly skilled in gardening, landscaping, tree and shrub care, carpentry, equipment operation, and many other areas. Vicente is a great addition to our Forestry and Parks department, and he is already demonstrating his significant capabilities as our new part-time, year-round Forestry and Parks Assistant.

Welcome to Kiera Kahl, Seasonal Forestry and Parks Crew- Kiera joined our staff a few weeks ago and will be working with us part-time for the summer before beginning her college career at UW-Green Bay in the Fall. She is a quick learner and a hard worker, and she is already proficient with much of the equipment and tools that we use on a daily basis. We are grateful to have her on the team.

Earlier Winter/Spring Projects- Worked with Whitney Tree service to complete regular, rotational street tree pruning on Columbia (Harvard to Purdue- 21 trees), Dartmouth (full street- 69 trees), Wellesley (full street- 81 trees), and Lake Mendota Drive (full street- 262 trees). One N. Maple was removed at 1112 Dartmouth. 15 arbor vitae, 1 hickory, 1 Austrian pine, and 1 oak were pruned between the bike path and the community pool fence at the request of pool staff. Dead limbs were removed from 1 bur oak and one locust above picnic area at community pool. Cleaned out new bioretention area on Edgehill Pkwy.

Summer Projects- The majority of May and June were spent refreshing public grounds around the Village for the summer season. The Community Pool grounds, bike path, Village Hall, fire station, Entryway parks and median, raingardens, University Bay drive median, etc. have received significant attention so far. That work will continue in all of our parks, medians, raingardens, etc. throughout the summer. One ongoing project involves reducing the size of some excessively mulched recreational areas in our parks and re-seeding them into grass, for both maintenance and appearance purposes.

Arbor Day/Tree Plantings- For our Arbor Day celebration, 1 Autumn Fantasy Maple at the corner of Shorewood & Bowdoin, along with 1 Redosier dogwood and 1 Autumn Brilliance serviceberry at Bowdoin and Amherst bioretention area, were planted. 4 arrowwood viburnums were planted in front of 1008 Beloit Ct. 1 Spring Snow crabapple was planted at the Heiden Haus. 1 American Sentry linden near the corner of Harvard & Columbia was planted as part of Heiden Haus project. Plans are in the works for an additional tree order and second round of tree plantings later in the summer.

Tree Pruning- At this time, pruning back of trees and shrubs in the right-of-way and around public signs is taking place throughout the Village.

Tree Removals- 1 flowering crab on Blackhawk Country Club grounds on Lake Mendota Dr. was removed following damage from a vehicle collision on Lake Mendota Dr. 1 N. Maple was removed as dead/dying at 1112 Dartmouth. **June 13 Storm Damage:** 1 mature maple near 3601 Blackhawk failed, 1 mature tuliptree on University Houses Community grounds failed after lightning strike, 1 mature white pine failed in Four Corners park, 1 mature linden and 1 hickory partially failed on Oxford, and major limb failures occurred on Columbia, Crestwood, and Maple Terrace.

Invasive Species Management- Garlic mustard was removed from the Quarry, Kaeyser Woods, Bradley Park, and other parks. GM, dame's rocket, and buckthorn pulled in Sunset/Viburnum Triangle. Other weeds currently being targeted throughout the Village include crown vetch, leafy spurge, spreading hedge parsley, pokeweed, burdock, curly dock, sweet clover, various thistle spp., etc.

Garden Club- Worked with Hannah Pinkerton and crew on transplanting shrubs from Edgehill Dr. beds to Colgate Triangle. Refreshed the mulch in the Lake Mendota Drive/Sumac triangle. Refreshed mulch around the fire station. Continual weeding, pruning, and debris removal around Village Hall. We are working on refreshing the mulch around the Arbor Day trees around the Elementary School campus.

Heiden Haus- Worked with David Boutwell and Vicente to plant 1 Spring Snow Crabapple and 1 American Sentry Linden around the Heiden Haus grounds. Three arbor vitae for the east side of the building are forthcoming. LiveRoof installation on the shade structure on the west side of the building is complete.

Community Forestry Plan Grant- I am in consultation with Brian Wahl at the DNR regarding the grant application process. The application period became active at the start of July and the deadline for submission is October 1st. One important step will be getting a resolution passed by the board, as this is a cost-sharing grant.

Feedback about Large Triangle at Sunset & Viburnum Intersection, Village of Shorewood Hills

From: Marya Geiger, 3427 Viburnum Drive

(Sent: June 29, 2022 at 9:00 AM)

The Village Triangle, splitting Viburnum Drive at its south end, is located across the street from my home, and I appreciate the solicitation of feedback about this special area of the Village. In my opinion, this Triangle contributes significantly to the charm and character of the Village, supporting the relationship between, and interaction of, rights of way and green space/woodland. The street appears to have been designed this way since original platting (if not before), and is part of what makes Shorewood Hills unique to me. I appreciate and value the split of the right-of-way, which distributes traffic and enhances safety for those entering or exiting Viburnum Drive (traffic on Sunset regularly travels at excessive speeds based on my observations). The existing ROW triangular layout results in a quieter street area on Viburnum, providing a benefit for many of us who enjoy walking the roads of our neighborhood. And it's a visually appealing design providing interest and character to the ROW layout.

The existing mature trees in the Triangle also contribute invaluable overstory as we continue to face warming temps and also provide homes and resting spots for our wildlife. I also appreciate having wooded areas in the Village such as this Triangle as they enhance the natural beauty of the neighborhood and provide a contrast to the manicured lawns. I think the undergrowth could benefit from additional management if the Village has the funds/interest for such a project. I do believe a resident recently cleared out a great deal of invasives and placed a variety of new plantings (including redbuds among many other things) that, as they mature, will add beauty to the under-story and middle-story. Of course, the invasives will do their best to take over, which in my opinion would be where additional management is most needed. A long term plan could be useful too, including to potentially address when the larger trees naturally die. The plan could focus on specific natives that the Village would like to see added to the Triangle. I would, however, be opposed to taking down any of the large existing trees before the end of their natural lives.

Since it has been brought up by others, I wanted to address a proposal for a change to the layout of the ROW – in short, I would be strongly opposed. In addition to the benefits I see in the existing layout discussed previously, I would anticipate any elimination of one of the ROW splits would be quite costly as the remaining ROW would require widening to match the width of the non-split areas of Viburnum to accommodate regular 2-way traffic (which is very uncommon in the current layout). This also may require existing large trees to then be cut down for any ROW widening, along with demolishing any existing asphalt on the eliminated side and potentially dealing with any underlying infrastructure. This, in my opinion, would be a huge cost with no enhancements to the neighborhood and in my opinion, it would instead be a detriment. On a personal level, I would be strongly opposed to having additional 2-way traffic directly along my property, which effectively is already a corner lot given its proximity to Sunset. I would also be opposed to the idea of eliminating the road along my property and modifying for additional public use, as I already have a public path along the entire southeast border of my property (path to Four Corners Park); additionally, this proposal could require a lengthening of my driveway

which would be an ongoing additional cost and burden to me to maintain. Either of these options would have a negative impact on my property.

In short, I love how the Viburnum Triangle and ROW exists today and historically, but would appreciate any additional management of the under- and middle-story trees and native plants. Thanks again for everyone's thoughtful consideration!

From: Max Rahder <rahder@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 7:48 PM
To: Adam Lohrmann <alohrmann@shorewood-hills.org>
Subject: Triangle park at Sunset and Viburnum

Hi!

I live at 3420 Sunset Dr and just attended the listening session. I'm writing you because you were listed as the contact person in the meeting announcement. Please feel free to forward this email to whoever might be interested.

My house is on the corner of Sunset and Viburnum, on the NW side.

I wanted to re-state that I propose closing Viburnum on the west side of that triangle, tearing up that stretch of road, but leaving a footpath so pedestrians and dog walkers aren't negatively affected. That's the side furthest away from Four Corners. Doing so would result in a large contiguous amount of green space, since my yard facing Viburnum is already wooded on that side. I also like the idea of making the triangle a village park -- in the past, it's gotten full of buckthorn and other invasives. It's only clear now because of the efforts of some neighbors. If it were a park I'm hoping it could be managed better.

One other benefit of closing the west fork is that that section of road would no longer need road maintenance or snow removal.

I talked to Andy (who lives at the end of Viburnum, on the west side -- and he agrees. The neighbor on the east side (Maria?) adjacent to Four Corners has said she was against closing the east fork -- the side closer to Four Corners -- because she didn't want more foot traffic by her yard. I'd have to talk to her more, but I'm thinking she'd be in favor of closing the west fork too. (I'll try to talk to her later this week.)

My son Joe arrived late, but he made an interesting observation. He said that some people use Viburnum as a route to get to and from the country club. In other words, some Country Club traffic goes up Topping, some goes up Blackhawk, some goes up Sunset Blvd (turning off of Blackhard) and some goes via Viburnum and Sunset. Closing the westing fork -- the one closer to Blackhard -- would spoil that as a shortcut, and mean a little less overall traffic on Viburnum. That street is narrower than most, so that small reduction would be a real benefit.

I'd be happy to explain this again, in the next meeting.

: -)

--

+1 (608) 345-6472

From: Jan Tymorek jantymorek@gmail.com
Sent: Mon 6/6/2022 10:52 PM
To: Carol Barford cbarford@shorewood-hills.org
Subject: Sunset and Viburnum

Hi Carol,

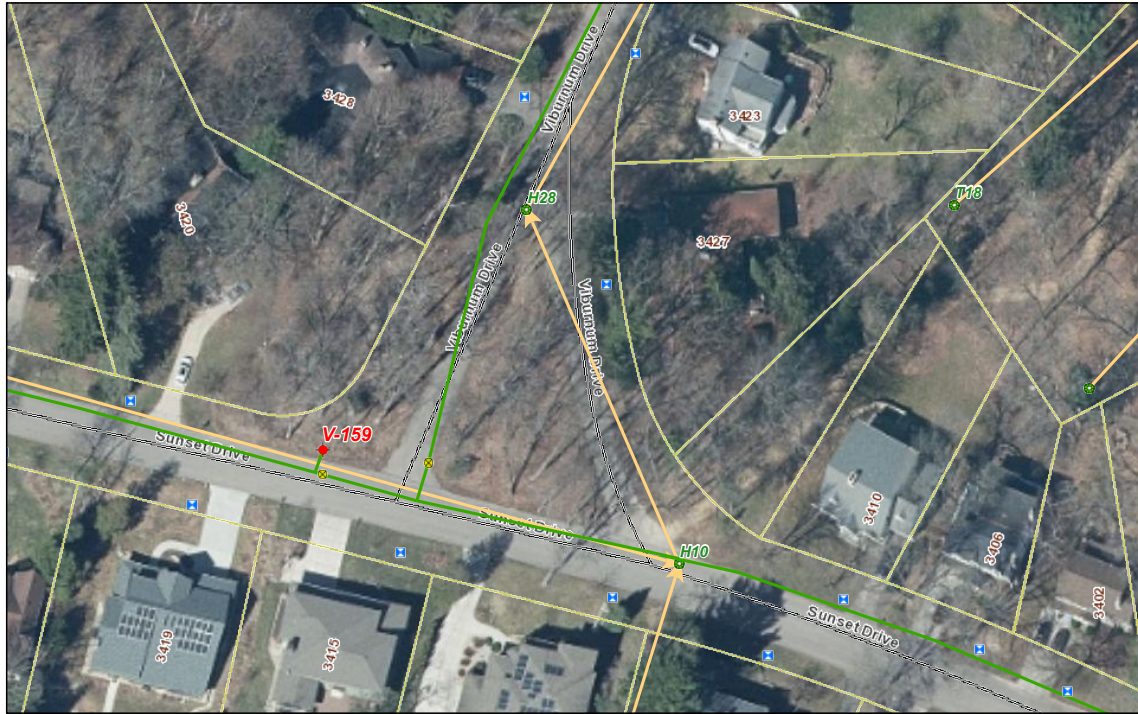
I missed the beginning of the meeting, are you now heading the Parks Committee? Please let me know if the committee needs any more members, it has always interested me. I would be so honored to work with Kathie Brock!

I don't really have further thoughts regarding the large triangle. I'm so grateful that Shorewood Hills has these unique areas. I would like to see it have a better understory, but still have open enough sightlines for cars to have vision, coming up to Sunset to turn. You may not know, it, but Sunset used to be almost a tunnel of beautiful maple trees on both sides of the road before the three newer homes were built, opposite and just up hill from the **Viburnum** intersection. I think that may be why there are so many maple seedlings in that triangle still, and why, when those homes were built, it increased the flow of water coming downhill from Blackhawk Dr. I could be wrong but I think the water problem is related to that. Most of that area used to be wooded until those homes were built. Anyway,

I hope the triangle can be maintained, and I would volunteer to help, with native plants and flowers. It could be, like Koval Woods and Eagle Heights woods, full of wild flowers in spring, and color in fall. I do not see any reason to turn it into a park, picnic area, or have a path through it. I also am not in favor of changing the road.

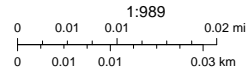
Jan Tymorek
1512 Sumac Drive
608-239-7576

Village of Shorewood Hills



4/27/2022, 1:08:50 PM

- ◆ Hydrants
- Water Services



na

Village Staff
na | ParcelText | MMSD | Madison Area Transportation Planning Board |

SUNSET/VIBURNUM TRIANGLE



From: Patricia Lipton <patlipton@hotmail.com>

Date: Monday, May 9, 2022 at 9:22 PM

To: "dbenforado@shorewood-jills.org" <dbenforado@shorewood-jills.org>

Subject: Parked boats

Dear Dave,

I am writing to you because there has been a lot of change and I'm not sure to whom I should address my remarks.

I have called the Village Hall a few times concerning the presence of boats which are permanently "parked/moored" in Shorewood Hills on lawns or driveways. I am told that they should not be there but that I need to complain. I have the sense that Village Management does not have the authority to execute on the 'rules' that have been established hence the need for the complaint. This doesn't make much sense to me. I wish to complain about the boat which is moored on Tallyho Lane at the intersection of Highbury. It's on the South West corner.

I would really appreciate a follow up. Is there something else I should be doing to register my complaint? I love living in Shorewood Hills and want only the best for it.

My next concern is the replanting of trees to offset the harsh impact of the work done along Locust. The trees are what make Shorewood so lovely. Should we have a fund raising for more trees?

I would appreciate a response, if only to redirect my email to the right person in the Village Hall.

Many thanks,

Patricia Lipton