

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD HILLS
Approved
Public Health & Safety Committee Minutes
Tuesday, July 26, 2022

1. Chairperson Carol Barford called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. Roll call: Committee members present were Ms. Barford, Bill Muehl, Jeremy Tunis, Dietmar Bassuner and Jim Rogers. Staff present: Village Administrator Sharon Eveland and Clerk-Treasurer Sam Liebert. Members of the public present: Bob Falk of 1227 Shorewood Blvd.
3. **Note compliance with open meeting law**
Note compliance with open meeting law: Ms. Eveland confirmed that the meeting was properly posted.

Without objection, Ms. Barford moved Item #7 (Discussion regarding property maintenance in the Village)

7. **Discussion regarding property maintenance in the Village**
Ms. Barford stated that there have been several complaints about the property at 1223 Shorewood Blvd. and other properties in the village. There are currently no property maintenance specific ordinances on the books in the village to address these concerns.

Mr. Falk stated he lives next to the distressed property. It is a health and safety hazard. Animals come into the house through holes. The property has been broken into several times. There has been little to no maintenance done on the house in the past 18 years. Has seen kids trying to break into the house through the back.

Mr. Tunis said he runs past this property regularly. Agrees that something needs to be done.

Ms. Eveland stated that she has reached out to the wife of the person listed as the property owner. Would not allow the village access to the property. They do not live in the state but live in Florida. Ms. Eveland stated that she said she would get someone out to perform lawn maintenance.

Ms. Barford asked what our current status is of any ordinances on the book.

Ms. Eveland stated that we do have a nuisance ordinance, but they can often be hard to enforce. Most communities have some level of property maintenance ordinances. Is not aware of any communities that do not have a limit on how tall

grass can grow. Believes there is a difference between grass growing naturally versus allowing your yard to grow wild and intrude into neighboring property. We don't have the sufficient ground to address properties quickly and easily like this. Ms. Eveland recommends that we implement some level of ordinance to address property maintenance.

Mr. Bassuner stated there are two issues at hand. The current property in discussion and Village wide issues on other properties. Supports having an ordinance come forward to address property maintenance.

Ms. Eveland stated she is sending a letter to the property owner requesting access to assess in the interior of the property. If they fail to respond, we will be able to work with the attorney to obtain an inspection warrant. The village assessor can then assess if a "Raze or Repair" order is required. Ms. Eveland asked the board if there is general support or consensus to move forward with drafting an ordinance to address property maintenance.

Mr. Falk stated that properties like this bring down the value of other properties.

Ms. Barford stated that homes should be safe, sealed, and secure.

Mr. Falk stated that he would like to see minimal standards when it comes to home maintenance in the village.

Mr. Muehl stated that property maintenance should be about individual choice to do what you want with your own property.

Ms. Barford stated, by consensus, that we should look into a model ordinance.

4. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

Motion by Muehl, seconded by Bassuner to approve of the June 8, 2022 minutes.
Motion carried 5-0.

5. **Discussion regarding graffiti on school building incident**

Mr. Tunis gave an update in regard to the graffiti on the school building. He stated that there was an incident of a swastika graffiti on the side of the school. The Village handled the situation well. The Village police and school district took pictures as part of the investigation. The building was cleaned quickly.

Mr. Rogers asked what our policy was regarding graffiti in general.

Ms. Eveland stated she was not aware of an official policy, but that we would do our best to remove the graffiti, and the nature of the damage. Not sure historically what the Village has done in the past.

Mr. Tunis stated the Anti-Defamation League has a process for reporting hate crime graffiti, as well as the NAACP.

Ms. Eveland stated that police reports are filed when graffiti is found.

6. Discussion regarding Village street safety

Ms. Barford gave an update and referred to the documents in the packet. She stated that she reviewed specific concerns with Harvard Drive. The pedestrian path was not well marked and faded. There is an ongoing initiative to address street safety. On September 14, there will be a public input session with the Public Works Committee to address street safety.

Mr. Muehl stated that drivers need to be more aware of where they drive and where pedestrians are walking.

Mr. Rogers stated there had been a pretty in-depth conversation in the past about Complete Streets.

Ms. Barford encourages everyone to stay informed of what is going on with Public Works. Stated she plans on attending the September 14 meeting.

Between 8:06 pm and 8:12 pm Mr. Tunis' connection on Zoom was lost. Quorum was still in place, so business continued.

8. Discussion regarding cameras at Mckenna Park boathouse

Ms. Barford gave an update from the May meeting. The Village Board is looking at crafting a policy for cameras. The point of the document in the packet, is to start gathering concepts for an overarching policy for cameras in the Village; and how does the policy apply to the boathouse. Ms. Barford gave a review and walk-through of the 'Public Video Surveillance Working Doc' that was in the committee packet.

Discussion was had by the committee.

Mr. Rogers stated he supported the document and asked if it would be appropriate to move to recommend a creation of a Village of Shorewood Hills public video surveillance policy following the Public Video Surveillance Working Document best practices.

Mr. Tunis stated that he wasn't sure how much privacy the public has in a public place, after hours. There is no expectation of privacy. The problems at the boathouse appear to remain high and there continue to be issues. We should continue the process, but not take too long to make a decision.

Mr. Bassuner stated that our purpose should be to set guidance and direction. Is in full support of the document. Agrees with Mr. Tunis' statements.

Mr. Muehl stated he would like to see the police have the capability to see what is going on at the boathouse. No matter what we do, people will not be happy either way.

Mr. Rogers stated he would like to see language that allows for the village board to conduct periodic review the policy every so many years.

Ms. Eveland stated that there is already a regularly scheduled policy for reviewing of police policies.

Ms. Barford stated that she will work with Sharon and the staff on additional language from tonight's comments.

Ms. Eveland recommends a September target date to come back with a policy for review by the committee.

Discussion was had about possible public input about the policy proposal, and what the village could do to promote the public discussion segment.

Ms. Eveland stated that could be done.

9. **Next meeting Date: August 23, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

10. **Adjourn**

Motion by Muehl, seconded by Rogers to Adjourn at 8:49 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Liebert
Village Clerk-Treasurer