

Village of Shorewood Hills Parks Committee

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Location: Virtual via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Chair Carol Barford.
 - a. **Roll Call:**
 - i. **Committee Members:** Ms. Barford, Nancy Heiden, Kathie Brock, David Boutwell, Jeremy Rogers and Jan Tymorek. Roma Lenehan joined the meeting at 5:43 pm.
 - ii. **Others in Attendance:** Village Forester Adam Lohrmann, Mary Janet Wellensiek, Garden Club Liaison, Kate Weinstock, Garden Club President, Hannah Pinkerton, Garden Club Triangles, and Administrative Services Coordinator, David Sykes.
 - b. **Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** Mr. Sykes confirmed that the meeting had been properly posted.
2. **Approve minutes from November 15, 2022, Parks Committee meeting:**

Mr. Boutwell moved and Mr. Rogers seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Vote: 3-0-2 (approved).
3. **Monthly Forester's Report:** Mr. Lohrmann presented his report and there were no questions.

The Committee discussed the Status of the Parks focusing on Dudley Davis Quarry Park (see the attached SWOT report).
7. **(This item was taken out of order by consensus) Discussion regarding raingardens (Bowdoin/Amherst and Shorewood/Harvard) as possible showcases for the Olbrich Garden Tour:** The Olbrich Garden Tour will be in Shorewood Hills on July 7 & 8.

Mr. Lohrmann reported that the Tour will mostly be private residence gardens and the Garden Club's triangle gardens. The organizers would like to showcase some of the Village's raingardens as well. The Bowdoin/Amherst raingarden was worked on last year and is ready for replanting. The Shorewood/Harvard raingarden is highly visible to visitors but needs some work. He has been investigating funding sources for revegetation/plantings.

The required sediment removal for revegetation is part of stormwater maintenance and must go through the Public Works Committee and the Village Engineer.

Mr. Boutwell reported the Shorewood Hills PTO may be interested in managing the Amherst/Bowdoin raingarden since it is being used as a demonstration bio infiltration garden for the school. Mr. Rogers said he will reach out to the PTO.

Mr. Boutwell volunteered to lead the creation of a draft proposal that can be presented to the Public Works Committee.

Ms. Heiden mentioned that the Sumac triangle needs new railroad ties installed. Ms. Pinkerton reported that the Public Works Chief is aware of the maintenance issues and is purchasing RR ties, rails and fence posts for the split rail fence along Locust Drive.

4. **Update from Forester regarding Emerald Ash Borer treatment and fundraising:** Mr. Lohrmann reported he was unaware of the previous Forester changing the treatment schedule from 3 years to 2 years. Treatments are due in 2023 but no money was budgeted this year. He asked for guidance on bringing back the “Adopt an Ash Tree” program to raise funds for the EAB treatments this year. A long term source of funding and decisions on which trees the Village wants to treat is needed. We may need to get creative when funding the treatments in 2023 and possibly investigate a forestry fee added to the utility bills.
Mr. Boutwell added that he assisted with the “Adopt an Ash Tree” letters sent to residents in 2021. They treated ~36 trees for ~\$16K.
Ms. Brock added that the cost to take down a tree is much more than the cost to treat one.
5. **Bird City Proclamation/World Migratory Bird Day Event:** Ms. Barford reported that the Board passed the World Migratory Bird Day resolutions and the event is scheduled for Thursday, March 2 at the Village Hall.
6. **Discussion regarding replacement trees for the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District and University Avenue Reconstruction projects:** Ms. Barford indicated that the Madison Sewer project is not on Village land and we don’t have much say in the matter. Both projects have restoration plans that have been reviewed and approved already. City of Madison Engineering has planting plans on their website.
8. **Announcements, questions and/or consideration items for future agendas (no discussion or action to be taken under this item):** Time ran out for this item.
9. **Next meeting date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023.
10. **Adjourn:** Mr. Rogers moved and Ms. Heiden second a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted

David Sykes, Administrative Services Coordinator

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD HILLS
Forestry and Parks

Report for February 2023: Adam Lohrmann, Forester

Overview- Over the last month, the Forestry and Parks Department has continued with regular winter field work as well as planning for upcoming spring/summer projects. Activities included ongoing restoration of park signs, management of woody invasives in parks and natural areas, training prunes on young trees, site and species selection for a spring tree order, and preparations for rotational street tree pruning. Additionally, plans are in development for our annual Arbor Day celebration in April, as well as projects related to our Urban Forestry Grant award.

Park Signs- Forestry and Parks staff have continued repairing and re-painting park signs throughout the Village, most recently completing the McKenna Park sign at the intersection of Edgehill Dr. and Lake Mendota Dr. Research and discussion is in progress at the administrative level regarding the installation of new park signs at the formerly named West Entryway Park and other locations in the Village.

Invasive Species Management- Forestry and Parks staff have continued working on removing woody invasives in our parks and natural areas, particularly in Dudley Davis Quarry Park and Reese Woods. Target species include buckthorn, honeysuckle, winged euonymus, mulberry, sumac, and others.

Tree Pruning and Removals- Forestry and Parks staff have performed training prunes on ~50 trees throughout the Village, including street trees on University Bay Dr., University Ave., Bowdoin, Columbia, Yale, Harvard, Shorewood Blvd., and Locust Ave. One- 13" hackberry with a split trunk was removed by MG&E as it was overhanging power lines near the entrance to Dudley Davis Quarry Park. One mature Colorado spruce with a fungal infection at 1008 Shorewood Blvd (Fire Station grounds) is slated for removal by MG&E in preparation for an upcoming power line burial project.

Tree Planting- 15 trees have been placed on reserve with our nursery suppliers in preparation for planting in the late spring/early summer. Additional trees may be ordered as funding permits.

Rotational Street Tree Pruning- Rotational street tree pruning is scheduled to commence in the last week of February/first week of March. Weather-permitting, this work will take ~2-3 weeks to complete and will focus on streets on the west side of the Village, including Tally Ho, Topping, and Blackhawk. Residents will be notified in advance regarding temporary street parking restrictions.

EAB Treatments- Discussions are underway at the Village Board level regarding funding for EAB treatments. In recent years, these treatments have taken place every two years at a cost of \$12,000.00-\$13,000.00; removal of a mature ash tree can cost up to \$3,500.00+. Priority assessment of Village ash trees is in progress, and division of the ash population into two groupings for an annual rotational treatment schedule may be considered as a way of distributing the cost.

Garden Club- The Forester enjoyed participating in the Garden Club's book discussion group on February 7. Conversation focused on the value of incorporating native plantings in public and private landscapes, inspired by the book *Nature's Best Hope*, by Douglas Tallamy.

WAA/WIDNR Conference- The Forester participated in the annual conference of the Wisconsin Arborists Association and WI Department of Natural Resources in Green Bay, February 19-21, and enjoyed attending many relevant presentations and meeting colleagues in the Wisconsin forestry community.

MMSD West Interceptor Project and University Ave Construction- At this time there are no major updates to announce in regard to these projects. Groundbreaking for the next phase of the MMSD West Interceptor project, impacting the bike path/RR corridor between Shorewood Boulevard and Marshall Court, is scheduled for 2024. University Avenue road construction and sidewalk installation is expected to resume in late March or early April, 2023.

Arbor Day Celebration- Planning is underway for our annual Arbor Day celebration and tree planting event, in partnership with Shorewood Elementary School and Madison Gas and Electric. The event is scheduled for Friday, April 28 (specific time and rain date TBD).

SWOT ANALYSIS – DUDLEY DAVIS QUARRY PARK

Parks Committee

January 24, 2023

STRENGTHS

- Unique geology
- Feels expansive and special
- Quarry walls create an isolated natural area
- Native wildlife (turkey vulture, fox, wild turkey, occasional deer)
- Well-established and maintained trail system
- Picnic area includes a table and trash receptacle

WEAKNESSES

- Difficult pedestrian access
- Organic matter tends to build up in the public works area
- Lower quarry floor is often muddy and sometimes foul smelling

OPPORTUNITIES

- Add a park sign
- Create visitor parking
- Improve drainage from lower quarry floor
- Build a boardwalk or raised entrance path across lower quarry floor

THREATS

- Damage to cliff face created by climbing equipment
- Graffiti on rock face and boulders
- Invasive plant species
- Stormwater pipe from Topping Road
- Overuse by certain groups
- Dogs off leash