

Village of Shorewood Hills
Parks Committee
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 - 5:30pm
Location: Virtually via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Carol Barford called the meeting of the Parks Committee to order at 5:31pm.
 - a. **Roll Call:** Present, in addition to Barford, were David Boutwell, Roma Lenehan, Jan Tymorek, Kathie Brock, Jeremy Rogers, and Garden Club Liaison Mary Janet Wellensiek at 5:40pm. Nancy Heiden was absent-excused. Also in attendance were Village Forester Adam Lohrmann and Village Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Chrissy Kahl.
 - b. **Note compliance with open meeting law:** Kahl confirmed the meeting had been properly posted.
2. **Public Comment and Communication:** None. No members of the public attended.
3. **Approve minutes from October 24, 2023 Parks Committee meeting:** Tymorek moved, seconded by Boutwell to approve the October 24, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
4. **Monthly Forester's Report:** Lohrmann highlighted some items from his report that included October and November updates. Discussion included: spongy moth; bids for resident informational flyers; informational Nixle alerts to include photos; funds to help with cost of flyers; add stapled half sheet of information to flyers.
5. **Discussion of tree root zone protection (re: Four Corners spruce tree, MG&E trucks):** Lohrmann stated that he has notified contractors and subcontractors to not drive on or park vehicles on tree roots. He regularly has to remind them and takes photos, this will be ongoing. Basic steps to protect the roots at Four Corners Park spruce tree-add a mulch ring around the tree and others at the park. Discussion included: use of natural stone; adding dirt and grass seed around some of the roots; still need to have access to the park; decorative fence to allow walking but not vehicles; tree is not showing immediate evidence of health problems-possibly bring in a consultant.
6. **Discussion of potential bird data for Bird City renewal in 2024:** Lenehan said there is no e-bird site currently. Blackhawk collects data but not in a systematic way, no feeder list. Lenehan offered to create an e-bird site by January 15th that people can contribute to. A proclamation needs to be completed by January 15, 2024. World Migratory Day is May 11, 2024.
7. **Discussion of Village tree history and bird pieces for the Bulletin (and other media), leading up to VOSH centennial:** Boutwell gave an overview. Discussion included: historical landscapes and trees in the Village; Bruce Allison created a document/map of trees but a tree walk is needed to be sure these 41 trees still exist; divide the list and team up to complete in the spring; Bulletin pieces, "Word of the Woods", could have seasonal

information and subsections; time the launch along with new website (Barford will check on the timeline); perhaps a quarterly column.

8. CORP plan update via Recreational Committee: Barford and Boutwell attended the meeting earlier in November. A public meeting will be held on December 14th. The 5-year draft is almost complete. The plan can be viewed under the Recreation Committee on the Village website.

9. Announcements, questions, and/or consideration items for future agendas (no discussion or action to be taken under this item):

Future Agenda Items:

- Update on LMD bridge planting
- Update on list of species planted by crew at LMD bridge and what to replace with
- Private funds for informational flyers for spongy moth
- E-bird site/data

10. Next meeting date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

11. Adjourn: Rogers moved, seconded by Brock to adjourn the meeting at 6:52pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chrissy Kahl
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD HILLS
Forestry and Parks

Report for December 2023-January 2024: Adam Lohrmann, Forester

Overview- In recent weeks, Forestry and Parks staff have been engaged in a variety of winter projects, including tree pruning, seeding of native species, management of woody invasives, winter storm damage clean-up, and maintenance work. Plans are in development for the annual rotational street tree pruning project in late winter/early spring. Progress continues on the development of an updated community forestry management plan. The Forester remains in communication with planners and contractors involved with a variety of construction and utility projects throughout the Village, regularly monitoring progress and photo-documenting impacts to trees and vegetation.

Special Thanks- The Forestry and Parks Department is grateful for the hard work and dedication of part-time Forestry Assistant Vicente Garcete. Vicente's skillful efforts have contributed greatly to the health of the Village's urban canopy and the beauty of its parks and green spaces in recent years.

Staffing Transitions- The transition of the part-time position of Forestry and Parks Assistant to a full-time role is currently underway. The open full-time position is anticipated to be filled in February.

Invasive Species Management- During the winter season, weed management efforts focus on removal of woody invasives and non-desirable trees, shrubs, and vines in our parks and natural areas. Species targeted for removal include: buckthorn, honeysuckle, winged euonymus, oriental bittersweet, and others. Focal areas for this work in recent weeks include Post Farm Park, Reese Woods, and Dudley Davis Quarry Park.

Seeding- Special thanks to Parks Committee members Kathy Brock for a generous donation of native wildflower and grass seed. Supplemented by seed collected locally by Forestry and Parks staff, multiple seed mixes of native prairie, savanna, and woodland species were dispersed on prepared soil in select locations of Post Farm Park, Dudley Davis Quarry Park, Four Corners Park, Reese Woods, Koval Woods.

Tree Pruning- Tree pruning for the purposes of tree vitality, public safety, street clearance and visibility continues throughout the village. In recent weeks, Forestry and Parks staff have completed training prunes on street trees located on Columbia Rd, Harvard Dr, Oxford Rd, Wellesley Rd, Edgehill Dr, Marshall Court, and elsewhere. Contracted street tree pruning services were conducted on Maple Terrace and Sweetbriar Rd in December.

Tree Removals- 1 dead 28" red oak was removed on Edgehill Dr. 1 dead/dying 14" white oak was removed on Oak Way. 1 storm-damaged 5" hackberry was removed on Highbury Rd.

Lake Mendota Bridge Construction- The Forester has been informed that additional restoration work on park land impacted by the recent Lake Mendota Bridge construction project is scheduled to occur in the spring.

DNR Urban Forestry Grant Projects- Data collection for the Village public tree inventory was completed by staff from the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission and Urban Tree Management last year. This new data is contributing to the development of an updated community forestry management plan, anticipated to be completed within the next 6 months.