



**Conservation Committee
Agenda
Thursday, October 3, 2019
7:00 P.M.
Village Hall**

1. Call to order
2. Approve August 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes
3. Staff Liaison Update
4. Discuss Citizen Concerns
5. Discuss Fish and Feather Festival
6. Update on Solar on Public Buildings and Consider Committee Letter of Support
7. Discuss 2020 Film Festival Planning
8. Discuss New Subcommittee Proposal on School Liaison Activity
9. Subcommittee Reports
10. Upcoming Events, Member Topics & Suggestions
11. Adjournment

DATED at Shorewood, Wisconsin this 26th day of September, 2019.

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD
Sara Bruckman, CMC/WCMC
Village Clerk

Should you have any questions or comments regarding any items on this agenda, please contact the Manager's Office at 847-2705.

It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information; no action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.

Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals.



Conservation Committee Minutes

September 5, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Village Hall Committee Room
3930 N. Murray Avenue, Shorewood, WI 53211

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members present: Joshua Liberatore, Chase Kelm, Henry Tomaszewicz, Meenal Atre, Travis Blomberg, Pat Wilson, Donna Pollock (arrived at 7:03 p.m.), Linda Frank (arrived at 7:14 p.m.) Elisabeth Witt (arrived at 7:39 p.m.), and Caroline Kuebler

Others Present: Assistant Village Manager Tyler Burkart

Not present: Matt McGovern, Maggie Pipek,

2. Approve August 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Blomberg moved to approve the August 1, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tomaszewicz. Vote 7-0 approve the minutes.

3. Staff Liaison Update

Mr. Burkart updated the Committee on the organics collection program. Plastic bags for the organics collection program will no longer be accepted. Blue Ribbon, who processes the material, and other agencies has concerns about the PFAS related to the plastic bags. The Committee thought it would be worthwhile to do a manager's memo article on the issue. Mr. Burkart also mentioned Village staff is working with North Shore Health Department on gathering data and proposing an ordinance for smoke free beach and parks. This will more than likely be taken to the Village Board and/or a committee for consideration in early 2020. Village Manager wanted to concentrate on this effort rather than the installation of cigarette receptacles. Mr. Burkart updated the Committee that the Village is unlikely to receive a recycling rebate due to the new Waste Management contract. The Committee still questions the equation for the recovery rate. Mr. Burkart will follow up on this. Ms. Kuebler provided an update related to the Queensway Cleaners demolition plan and process for mediating the waste from the site. Lastly, Mr. Burkart updated the Committee about the beach cleaning equipment and procedures with the Department of Public Works. The Committee may send grant ideas to share with DPW to consider for upcoming grants.

4. Discuss Citizen Concerns

There was discussion about the public sidewalk repair – health concerns of workers breathing in dust without a mask and condition of trees when tearing and replacing the sidewalk or parking a vehicle without damaging overhanging branches. There was also mention about the Committee making recommendations to the Library about facility upgrades with the donated funds received. Lastly, the Committee will be submitting a manager's memo article about left over gas in the lawn mower prior to the winter season.

5. Discuss Fish and Feather Festival

The river clean-up will be in the morning from 9-11 a.m. Volunteers should meet in the parking lot in Estabrook Park. Mr. Tomasiewicz will post on the Milwaukee Festival. Bring Your Bag Shorewood will be present for the event. Members should look for an email from Mr. Burkart and Mr. Liberatore to sign up. Ms. Atre will also reach out to TerraCycle Plastic Free MKE to see if they would like to attend.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Kuebler showed Committee members the flyer with the QR code for the pesticide survey. Community members can take the survey with their phones and the QR code at the Festival. Ms. Frank put together a new draft of the proposal for a refuse utility. Phase one of implementation would be 2022 or 2023 when the refuse operations would move from property taxes to a utility bill. Phase two of implementation would occur in 2024 or 2025 which incorporates some operation changes to promote recycling and reuse practices. Mr. Blomberg volunteered to review the draft and Mr. Liberatore will work with Ms. Frank on some edits with the draft. Once the draft is completed, Mr. Burkart will setup a meeting with Village officials to review. Ms. Witt summarized the presentation and words of encouragement for solar technology to the School Board. Mr. Liberatore will send out another email to School officials to assure these concepts are being incorporated with the facility upgrades.

7. Upcoming Events, Member Topics & Suggestions

Ms. Ariana Hones from the Wisconsin Conservation Voters (SE Organizer for the State) was in attendance to summarize their efforts. Shorewood Waters Project has a pollinator session on September 18.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Pollock moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Tomasiewicz. Vote 10-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tyler Burkart
Assistant Village Manager

To: North Village Presidents
CC: NSFD Chief Whitaker
From: Shorewood Conservation Committee
Re: Solar Opportunities in Shorewood

The North Shore Fire Department (NSFD) faces an unprecedented opportunity to set an example of what municipal construction and renovation can look like by integrating a cost-saving and sustainable investment in clean energy into its core design and operations at the Shorewood Firehouse.

On September 12, Conservation Committee member Matt McGovern met with NSFD Chief Robert Whitaker to discuss the benefits of the solar installation. In our experience working with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) in executing their recent group-buy programs for residential solar installations, a payback period of 7-8 years is normal and favorable at the individual household level. Some residents may be concerned about the age of their roof or may not know how long they will own the house.

A municipal institution like NSFD undergoing a major renovation has a longer view in mind, because NSFD will own the firehouse for decades to come, unlike a homeowner or the owner of a commercial building who may sell before a solar installation has paid off. A ten-year payback time is entirely reasonable for the NSFD, which will still be here in ten years, and NSFD will still own the Shorewood Firehouse. Note that Whitefish Bay's DPW recently added solar to its building to recoup operating costs after a similar payback period.

The quote from Arch Electric amounts to only \$63,000 after Focus on Energy incentives, so the solar option is a very small piece of the overall project (less than 2 percent), one that would reduce NSFD operating costs by around \$6,200 per year. We Energies just received approval for a rate hike for 2020 and 2021, and electricity rates typically increase over time. The business case for solar is strong.

Shorewood resident survey data shows overwhelming support for adding more solar generation to the local energy mix, and indeed, the Village set an ambitious goal of reaching 25% clean energy by 2025. Shorewood residents have participated in solar group buys in the past 4 years, adding solar power to 20 local homes, and setting a record in 2016 for the largest group buy in Wisconsin to date. Support for solar energy is very high everywhere, across the political spectrum. In a 2018 national poll, 74% agreed we should use solar "as much as possible."

Adding solar to the Shorewood fire station would offer a powerful signal of the North Shore's values and fits in with NSFD health and public safety mission.

Respectfully,

Joshua Liberatore, Chair
Chase Kelm
Maggie Pipek
Matt McGovern
Henry Tomasiewicz
Caroline Kuebler

Donna Pollock
Linda Frank
Meenal Atre
Pat Wilson
Travis Blomberg
Elisabeth Witt

2020 Festival Brainstorm

[The Biggest Little Farm](#) chronicles the eight-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of barren farmland and a dream to harvest in harmony with nature. Through dogged perseverance and embracing the opportunity provided by nature's conflicts, the Chesters unlock and uncover a biodiverse design for living that exists far beyond their farm, its seasons, and our wildest imagination. (1 hour, 32 minutes; DVD available)

[The River and the Wall](#) follows five friends on an immersive adventure through the unknown wilds of the Texas borderlands as they travel 1200 miles from El Paso to the Gulf of Mexico on horses, mountain bikes, and canoes. Documents the borderlands and explore the potential impacts of a wall on the natural environment, but as the wilderness gives way to the more populated and heavily trafficked Lower Rio Grande Valley, they come face-to-face with the human side of the immigration debate and enter uncharted emotional waters. (1 hour, 45 minutes; DVD available)

[Vanishing of the Bees](#) follows commercial beekeepers David Hackenberg and Dave Mendes as they strive to keep their bees healthy and fulfill pollination contracts across the U.S. The film explores the struggles they face as the two friends plead their case on Capital Hill and travel across the Pacific Ocean in the quest to protect their honeybees. Filming across the US, in Europe, Australia and Asia, this documentary examines the alarming disappearance of honeybees and the greater meaning it holds about the relationship between mankind and mother earth. As scientists puzzle over the cause, organic beekeepers indicate alternative reasons for this tragic loss. (1 hour, 27 minutes; DVD available)

[Seed: The Untold Story](#) follows passionate seed keepers protecting our 12,000-year-old food legacy. In the last century, 94% of our seed varieties have disappeared. As biotech chemical companies control the majority of our seeds, farmers, scientists, lawyers, and indigenous seed keepers fight a David and Goliath battle to defend the future of our food. In a harrowing and heartening story, these reluctant heroes rekindle a lost connection to our most treasured resource, and revive a culture connected to seeds. (1 hour, 34 minutes; DVD available)

[Trees in Trouble](#) tells the compelling story of how one community in Ohio grappled with the crisis of losing their native ash trees to this unstoppable invasive insect. The film examines how cheap goods provided by global trade have huge financial, health and emotional costs for communities that must confront the crisis of invasives and pay the price as thousands of trees are removed and millions of dollars spent to prevent safety hazards. Strapped for cash, parks and roads were closed and tree lined neighborhoods became barren. The film also shows how citizens, scientists and public officials worked together to save their trees and mitigate the damage. Through tree plantings, seed banking and genetic research, as well as better monitoring practices, there is hope for the future. (27 minutes; DVD available)

[Symphony of the Soil](#) is an artistic exploration of the miraculous substance soil. By understanding the elaborate relationships and mutuality between soil, water, the atmosphere, plants and animals, we come to appreciate the complex and dynamic nature of this precious resource. The film also examines our human relationship with soil, the use and misuse of soil in agriculture, deforestation and development, and the latest scientific research on soil's key role in ameliorating the most challenging environmental issues of our time. Filmed on four continents, featuring esteemed scientists and working farmers and ranchers, Symphony of the Soil is an intriguing presentation that highlights possibilities of healthy soil creating healthy plants creating healthy humans living on a healthy planet. (1 hour, 44 minutes; DVD available)