

**ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL** *(Forrest Butterwick, chair; Linda Benson, Cheryl MacKrell, Carla Smith)*

The Environmental Committee aspires to maintain the natural beauty and serenity of our Village as well as to support and encourage environmentally responsible practices. All residents are urged to become familiar with the adopted Village Code regarding illicit storm water discharge, trees, signs, and noise that have been written with the purpose of making our Village environmentally friendly and enjoyable for all our residents.

We would also like to remind all that the Village Code requires all septic systems must be pumped at least every four years. Early spring might be a good time to schedule an appointment to get that essential task taken care of before summer. Please contact the Clerk's office when making the appointment so a staff member can come at the same time to take care of the necessary paperwork.

Every spring we face the difficult challenge of controlling the extremely invasive plant, Garlic Mustard; our extensively wooded and hilly land adds to the challenge. We urge residents to help control Garlic Mustard before it spreads its seeds. Please refer to the many websites online or the handout sheet from the BHV Clerk's Office for additional information and recommendations in this important effort.

If you are not already familiar with our Village recycling area please consider taking a look and giving it a try. It is amazing how much of one's household garbage, that would otherwise be buried in a landfill, can be reduced by getting into a habit of using our convenient recycling facility.

Residents should also be aware that the Village will pick up your hazardous household waste items. Please contact the BHV Clerk's Office for information regarding details of this program.

We in Barton Hills have been given a great opportunity to live in a beautiful, natural setting and the Environmental Committee welcomes your input and suggestions so that that may continue.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING** *(Cheryl MacKrell, chair; Libby Langford)*

We're thankful the US-23 work has been completed. We're now watching a situation at a small parcel of land in Ann Arbor Township, at the northwest corner of Whitmore Lake and Stein Roads, just across from Washtenong Cemetery, a little south of Warren Road. A great deal of discarded fill was hauled from the construction sites along US-23, dumped there, and spread about with a berm along Whitmore Lake Road blocking the view. Much of this work was done at night, and there are many questions about its intended use. Without getting into too much detail, we know some of the parcel is zoned agricultural and some otherwise. Please keep an eye on this property if you come by there, and, if you see anything odd, especially such as a smoky haze over the field, please get a picture of it if possible and let me know.

The Planning Commission on which I am the Trustees' representative is continuing with our assigned tasks; a rather quiet period for now.

We will continue to advocate for the road safety improvements we have previously suggested to intersections at Main St./M-14, our so-crucial Barton Drive exit, and the 14/23/ split just north of there. Certain developments that came with the road work along there and some things in the works in the Village make me hopeful we will have some opportunities to help fund these. Stay tuned.

The Huron River Watershed Council remains interesting and presently challenging. New public policies and potential changes threaten its continuing effectiveness. Many efforts are being made to reverse or minimize the negative effects of the current federal administration's efforts to reverse clean water measures and other environmental protections.

We continue our work with the Environmental Committee on matters of tree and shrub management, the Olmsted vision for the Village, pesticides and herbicides, etc. We welcome the many new families making Barton Hills their home in the last few years. To help them and everyone make the most of the privilege of living in such a beautiful and historic area, several committees will be working together to share collective

### **LONG RANGE PLANNING (continued)**

wisdom and concrete suggestions for managing such things as security, safety on roads and water quality.

As always the staff of the Village does an outstanding job making Barton Hills such a marvelous place to live. Thanks to you all! We much appreciate the members of the Barton Hills Maintenance Corporation and the Planning Commission for their public service as well.

### **PERSONNEL (Libby Langford, chair; Will Boddie)**

At this time Barton Hills Village employs four full time and four part time personnel.

Village Superintendent Walter Esch who began full time in 1949 and stepped down to half time in 1996 passed away in July 2017, having fulfilled 67 years on the job in Barton Hills Village. The Village Hall was renamed Walter Esch Hall in his honor.

Assistant Superintendent Jeff Hnatow who began full time in 2014 was named Superintendent in July 2017. Jeff and his wife Sue live on site at 221 Barton Shore Drive.

Maintenance Department employees are David Esch who began full time in 1979, Chris Ward who began full time in 1992 and Robbie Hicks who began full time in September 2016. David and his wife Jan live on site at 227 Barton Shore Drive, Chris and his wife Stacie live on site at 175 Barton Shore Drive and Robbie lives on site at 215 Barton Shore Drive.

Part time employees are Josh Dyer (Maintenance), Priya King (Assistant Treasurer), Jan Esch (Deputy Clerk) and Mary Cantor (Office Assistant).

### **RECREATION (Linda Benson, chair; Jan Esch)**

The Recreation Committee routinely organizes two annual events: the Village Picnic and the Halloween hayride. Both events were well-attended and successful in 2017.

The Picnic was held on Sunday, September 24 from 4-7 pm, on the Village Green. The Village provided hot dogs, brats and hamburgers with David Esch and Jeff Hnatow in charge of the grills. Residents brought an assortment of side dishes. Extra tables and chairs were rented, providing additional comfort for eating and chatting. The weather cooperated, providing a beautiful autumn day for the 57 adults and 11 children who attended this year.

The Halloween Hayride has been a tradition for youngsters in the Village since 1953, first with Walter Esch's hay wagon and tractor and, in recent years, with a trolley rental from Tecumseh Trolleys. For the first time, the Village required two trollies to handle the 54 kids and parents who signed up. The evening began at 5:30 pm with pizzas and photo-ops at Walter Esch Hall, followed by stops at 12 houses in the Village. Sonnet Meek coordinated kids, parents, chaperones, and trick-or-treating stops for the event. Again, the weather helped make this a joyful Halloween celebration.

### **ROADS AND VEHICLES (Riad Al-Awar, chair; Jeff Hnatow)**

Our staff has done their best to keep our roads clean and safe. We are pleased to report that our roads were plowed, cleaned and salted most of the time before the township and city streets. For that we like to offer our appreciation and thanks to our staff. We urge our residents and their invited guests to do their share by observing the speed limit while driving in the village.

In the spring of 2017, our staff filled the pot holes that developed as a result of the natural frost and heave cycle in our part of the country.

On Barton Shore Drive we had to replace about 3000 feet of water main. Due to the nature of the ground, this process required us to do the work under the asphalt. The cut area in the asphalt was needed to install the pipe and the equipment that was needed to perform the job so we had no choice but to destroy most of the road width. Therefore, the best economic and aesthetic way to achieve a decent job was to pulverize the existing road and rebuild it with a solid base after the pipe installation rather than patching it. That was done.

I would like to thank our staff for keeping our roads safe and clean.

**SECURITY** (Forrest Butterwick, chair; Cheryl MacKrell)

One of the most cherished benefits of living in Barton Hills Village that most of us share is a sense of safety and security, but these benefits do not come to us automatically. There are steps we should take and responsibilities we should honor in order to preserve that reality.

Probably the greatest threat to that safety is the operation of vehicles at excessive speeds on our winding, hilly, and narrow roads with trees and shrubbery at the edge of the road in places, limiting visibility. Please always be mindful when driving through the Village in daytime and at night, of the possibility of surprise encounters with children, joggers, pet owners walking pets, bicyclists, and wildlife.

It takes the average adult approximately 2.3 seconds to even react to such dangers and at 30 mph, your vehicle would travel more than 100 feet, the distance of the basketball court at Crisler arena, before your foot would hit the brake pedal. If a person ran into the street at less than that distance in front of you, the brutal reality is that he or she would be hit while your vehicle was still traveling at full speed.

Another threat to safety are the trees and limbs that can injure travelers and bring down live electrical power lines. In addition, falling limbs can cause power outages that inconvenience many of us when they occur. Please bear in mind that DTE is not permitted to remove trees on private land; the responsibility for removal of dead trees therefore belongs to the individual property owners. The Trustees urge all residents to inspect their property for dead or unsafe trees or limbs and to arrange for their removal.

Sadly last year we did have a burglary at one residence. While the perpetrators have been apprehended it simply makes sense to take the prudent steps of locking your vehicles and garages at night and when you are away.

As requested by a number of residents, the Barton Hills Village Clerk will notify residents with timely information concerning local security issues. Nixle.com is also a source of news concerning local security issues. The Village office is continuously connected to the office of the Washtenaw County Sheriff through Nixle, and Northfield Township and Ann Arbor Township will forward information concerning any potential security issue to the Village office as well.

We offer a heartfelt thank-you to the Village staff who patrol the Village, clear roads in the winter, assist in emergencies, and generally keep a watchful eye over BHV. May we all continue to live safely and securely in BHV through our combined efforts in the coming year.

We welcome your input and suggestions.

**WATER** (Alicia Torres, chair; Sharon Popp, Randy Perry, Jeff Hantow, David Esch, Jim Wilkes advisory)

The Water Committee has devoted a considerable amount of time to research and study the history, current status and projected future needs of the BHV water system.

At the June 2017 Board of Trustees meeting the committee gave an extensive presentation focused on funding for future water system improvements. The simplified version of this detailed report includes:

	Water revenues	Water expenses
2014	\$6,100	\$49,000
2015	6,400	47,000 + \$113,000 water tower clean/inspect/paint +139,000 Forest/Oakdale main replace (1100 feet)
2016	6,200	75,000
2017	8,200	85,000 +760,000 Barton Shore main replace (3000 feet)

The Trustees supported the committee's recommendation to increase funding, raising the water rates from \$.33 to \$.99 per 100 cubic feet and the minimum charge from \$10 to \$120/year which would boost revenue to

## **WATER (continued)**

about \$30,000/year. Obviously further work is needed to provide water system funding options.

The Water Committee is currently focused on three goals:

1. Development of a Capital Plan to inventory water equipment and estimate future needs for maintenance, repair and replacement in the water system.
2. Continued research on funding options for the future.
3. Development of a water reference/educational manual for BHV residents.

The successful replacement of the previous 4-inch water main along Barton Shore Drive with an 8-inch main provides at least three benefits: (a) stronger pipe, with fewer chances of fractures, (b) increased availability of water, and (c) increased protection in the event of a major fire. Major water system work is not anticipated for another few years but the Water Committee and Board of Trustees are working to build resources for future needs.

Other water-related activities this year included:

--distribution of the annual BHV Water Consumer Confidence Report, which included particular emphasis on lead testing completed in September 2015. Lead is not present in BHV source water. Lead can enter drinking water when service lines and plumbing components containing lead corrode. All BHV water mains are either cast iron or cement-lined ductile iron and phosphate/chlorine are added to BHV water to minimize corrosion. BHV will be testing for lead/copper according to state mandate in 2018. The 2018 BHV Water Consumer Confidence Report (covering 2017 calendar year) will be distributed soon.

--monthly water sample testing in compliance with State of Michigan drinking water standards (which are based on federal EPA standards). There were no issues with the monthly tests, and no detection of over 100 herbicides, pesticides, organic compounds or other contaminants that are tested for annually. Since 1998 when a monthly test required retesting, BHV has had only one other occasion in 2012 where retesting/public notice were required to address a water quality issue (out of 235 monthly tests over that 20 year period).

--continued education/certification of maintenance employees.

## **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR** *(Randy Perry)*

The Zoning Administrator (ZA) reviews plans for new buildings, additions, and other remodeling projects, and generally any new or altered structure in the Village. When a plan meets the requirements of the Village zoning ordinance, the ZA issues a certificate of zoning compliance, which permits the owner to move forward with the project by obtaining the remaining approvals required (such as approval by the Barton Hills Maintenance Corporation and issuance of a building permit by the Ann Arbor Township Building Inspector, acting as our agent).

When a plan does not meet the literal requirements of the zoning ordinance, the owner may apply for a variance. The Village Board of Trustees, acting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, hears and decides all requests for variances. It also hears and decides all appeals from my decisions as ZA.

In addition to my review as ZA, the Village Board (acting as the Village Board and not as the Zoning Board of Appeals) reviews applications for fences, walls over 18 inches in height, wireless communication antennas, solar collection devices, and wind energy conversion systems.

In 2017 we had twelve approved zoning projects, one approved variance, two withdrawn applications, and no denied or disapproved projects.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION** *(Laura Weingartner, Chair; Greg Curtner, Cheryl MacKrell, John MacKrell, Mike Richards, Bruce Wallace, Andre Zoldan)*

The Planning Commission (PC) met on December 12, 2017.

The past year was a quiet one for the PC, and required no review by the commission of any plans presented by residents. The PC continues to remain engaged in review and discussion of issues and strategies affecting land use in Barton Hills, including local wetlands regulation, as well as the stewardship of our natural features, including trees and woodlands, and usage of the riverfront.