

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Monday July 12, 6:00 PM Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93570472368?pwd=VFc0ZnBuRFJFNEZGYk1uMXkxOWpsZz09>

Meeting ID: 935 7047 2368

Passcode: 153127

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,93570472368#,,, *153127# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,93570472368#,,, *153127# US (Chicago)

ROAD PAVING Paving of select sections of roads in Barton Hills Village will be done over Friday and Saturday, July 9 & 10. Please note: That's THIS WEEKEND! There will be one lane of traffic open at all times.

HAVE YOU NOTICED? If you have noticed any gypsy moths in the Village, would you please let us know? There have been gypsy moths sighted in Washtenaw County and are wondering if there are any in Barton Hills.



BHMC NORTH 40 PROJECT

In the past the undeveloped parcel of BHMC land between Barton North Drive and Whitmore Lake Road, known as the North 40, has been farmed, consistent with its *Agricultural Preservation District* zoning designation. However, there is increasing concern about the impact of herbicide/pesticide use in farming, both in the crops/food and in exposure to people, pets and wildlife. The BHMC Board has chosen to transition the North 40 from agricultural use to natural habitat preservation (also an allowable use under the current zoning).

The BHMC is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) to restore wildlife habitat on the North 40. The project includes:

--30 acres planted with native warm season grass and wildflowers to provide nesting habitat for monarch butterflies, other pollinators, nesting waterfowl and grassland dependent songbirds.

--2 acres (two locations) of existing wetlands improved to provide diverse habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl.

Under the 15-year contract, USFWS/DU will prepare the land (one application of glyphosate in early June 2021) and plant the grasses/wildflower seeds (late June 2021). They will also construct a small berm at each of the two wetland areas to bring the wetland average depth to 2.5 feet (overflow drainage included for wet months; lower water levels expected during dry months). Of the total \$15,862 estimated cost, USFWS/DU will provide \$14,502 for these activities. The BHMC cost of \$1,360 will cover required state/local permits and mowing the area once (after August 1, 2021).

While BHMC has committed to the 15-year project, it can end that commitment at a pro-rated cost. However, the Board is enthused about the project both for the habitat provision for songbirds, pollinators, waterfowl and other wildlife, and for the benefit that will be provided to BHMC shareholders. Once the project is established, walking paths can be created for respectfully observing wildlife and enjoying the beauty of nature.

There are many details concerning the project that the BHMC Board is glad to share. Attached is a list of questions/answers that has been compiled to date. Comments and

questions can be sent to the Board at contact@thebhmc.org, or mailed to BHMC, 199 Barton Shore Drive, Ann Arbor MI 48105.

Q. What is BHMC responsible for at additional cost? A. Maintenance, which includes checking on the wetland berms annually, control of exotic/invasive plants/shrubs, mowing if needed, and continuing the habitat management as agreed. USFWS personnel will be available to advise during the entire contract.

Q. Will the wetlands increase the mosquito population? A. The wetlands will likely be dry a good portion of the year (as they have been in the past). Frogs, birds and other wildlife will keep the mosquitos under control.

Q. Will the deer eat the wildflowers? A. Probably some, but the deer prefer to eat residential flowers, and other more attractive/available food. The BHV Deer Management program helps to keep the herd in check. The North 40 will still be available for the winter Deer Management activities.

Q. Will lots of people visit the North 40? A. Information will be provided to shareholders about entrance to the area, and signs will be installed to indicate the private nature of the land.

Q. Will the wetland ponds be sources of algae? A. No, the water is shallow and will not be conducive to algae growth.

Q. Will the wetlands be an attractive nuisance that is dangerous to children? A. No, the depth is only 2.5 feet at most, and will often be much less or dry. The overall size of the wetlands pools is very small.

Q. Will water runoff from the wetlands during heavy rainfall cause erosion? A. No, there are already existing drainage patterns that direct excess water to the proper place.

Q. Why not have organic farming on the North 40? A. The Board researched that option and considered some providers, but couldn't find anyone interested.

Q. Will the area look beautiful right away? A. It will take 3-5 years for the grasses and wildflowers to become well established, thus the 15-year period of the project. It may not look like much to start with, but will improve with each year.

Q. Are there other projects like this in the area? A. Yes. Board members visited some of them to see the different stages and get a better idea of what to expect.