

Landscape Stewardship Committee Meeting
Minutes of June 2, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm at the Silberman residence (317 GTC). Present were: Marc Silberman (note taker), Pat White (presiding and voting member + 1 proxy for Buenger), Bill Olson (voting member, LSC chair), Pat Gillette (voting member, arrived late), Bonnie Broderick (voting member), Kristi Reitz (voting member), and John Schimmelman.

1. Minutes of the May 5, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.
2. The draft "Policy Statement on Invasive Species" and the "Owner Landscaping Resources and Responsibility" document clarifying existing rules will be submitted to the HW Board at its July meeting for confirmation and then both will be distributed to all owners.
4. There was a brief discussion about regular upkeep of the newly installed Hollow rock swale and the stone swale on the ridge above the OMR slope. These need to be cleaned of debris, silt, leaves, and branches at least twice a year (fall and spring clean-up) and will become part of the maintenance contract. This will be the case for any additional erosion projects that entail stone swales (e.g., between 117-119 GTR). John S. updated us on the OMS replanting. Ganshert will spray the infestation of weeds and buckthorn "militants" on the slope asap; after letting the ground lie fallow for about 2 weeks, Ganshert will sow Virginia rye as ground cover and set in the groups of plantings as well as owner-funded plantings. Watering will be necessary by the adjacent residents, probably beginning in July. After the plantings, it is essential that no one trample on the slope / Virginia rye!
5. The erosion issue around 117 GTR was discussed. Bids from Roarke, Bassett, and Good Oak were not comparable and only covered tree removal (paid by HWCA), not re-engineering for erosion (paid by HWCA) and replanting (paid by owners and HWCA co-funding). Bill will discuss with the affected neighbors the severity and scope of erosion, and Pat W. will then confer with Dylan about obtaining more complete bids from each company. Once those bids come in, the LSC will recommend a provider for the removal of invasives and erosion repair to the Board. The Board will notify affected neighbors of the intent to remediate and invite them to participate with the LSC in planning for replanting based on the Bur Oak template and the suggested plantings posted at the HWCA website. The LSC's primary consideration is to establish root mass with the plantings that will prevent further erosion. Through adjacent neighbor input (including cost-sharing and commitment to watering), plantings that protect privacy and site lines can be included in the plans. The LSC hopes to proceed with the removal of invasives asap, consistent with the Highland Woods commitment to removal of invasive species and addressing erosion. We hope to have new plantings in the ground by the fall, if all the puzzle pieces come together in a timely manner.

6. The LSC tabled the agenda item to the next meeting for prioritizing future remediation projects and their cost in the common area over the next 5-10 years. A preliminary, non-ranked list of sensitive areas includes:

- west property line to OMR, behind 104 & 106 GTR (infestation of invasives and dead wood)
- east property line between 225 GHR and Highland Abbey (invasives)
- curve at GTR, including the hill down to the train tracks and behind / in-between 120-122 GTR (invasives, dead trees)
- area behind 101-103-105-107 GTR and 321 GTC down to the GTR entry (invasives and dead trees)
- OMR slope between the hollow and the GTR entry (lots of buckthorn and other invasives)

7. The next work date is set for Sat., June 13, 9-12 (meet at the GTC circle), rain date is one week later on June 20. Focus will be the property line along GTR ridge (garlic mustard and woodbine removal) as well as OMR by 102-104 GTR.

The next LSC meeting is scheduled for Wedn., July 1, 6:30 pm (at Pat W.' residence, 311 GTC).

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.