

Land Stewardship Committee  
Minutes, August 9, 2017

Present: Pat White (LSC chair), Pat Gillette, Marc Silberman (notetaker), Cathy Kennedy, Dylan Duhr (Prima Management), Susan Sweeney (LSC member), Bonnie Broderick (LSC member), Kristi Reitz (LSC member), [proxy to Pat White from LSC member Suzy Buenger], later Linda O'Hern

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm at the Broderick residence.

1) Minutes from the July 12 meeting were reviewed, moved, seconded, and passed without correction.

2) 117 project update:

- Nancy McDonald agreed to coordinate the watering among the residents around the 117 project, but there has been so much rain so far that the sprinklers have not been activated; the plantings, except for one "limp" shrub, seem to be doing fine.
- all new plantings are located behind the residences, while the area between 117-119 GTR still needs to be cleaned out (buckthorn) and planted; this could be filled in with ginger and vinca in a volunteer workday project
- at the request of the LSC, Good Oak left the yellow archangel (invasive) ground cover on the west half of the 117 project, but there may be other alternatives; the area soil is poor, and erosion is a real issue so that archangel may be an acceptable solution at this point
- buckthorn seedlings are invading the cleared out area and need attention; how can this be addressed for the long-term maintenance of the remediation project?
  - a) the HW board can commit funds for ongoing maintenance of this common area to protect the original investment;
  - b) the residents abutting the 117 project can take responsibility for clearing the "militants"
  - c) the HW board can use the 2018 funds for additional 117 plantings for buckthorn removal (Good Oak? Shawn?)

3) Review of groundskeeper tasks:

- Shawn should not be spraying creeping charlie (the LSC recommends that we accept this invasive as an innocuous ground cover, preferable to grass); Dylan will inform Shawn
- the LSC moved, seconded, and passed the motion to have Shawn replace the weeds at the bottom of the OMS project with salt-resistant grass sod (cost estimate by Shawn = \$275); Dylan will coordinate with Shawn

4) the next 2-year treatment of the Emerald Ash Borer by Mike Roarke has elicited only 6 responses for the adopt-a-tree effort (vs. 21 two years ago); the LSC recommended to Dylan that

he send a reminder to all residents, asking them to help protect our 140 ash trees by donating \$100 to adopt a tree.

5) a lengthy discussion ensued about how to maintain privately funded remediation projects of common areas after the original owners responsible for the plantings sell their units (e.g., 302 GTC, 310 GTC); other residents (e.g., 319 GTC, 118 GTR, 104 GTR, 204 GHR, etc.) have invested significant funds into remediating common areas around their homes but at some point will no longer be the owners. How can these beautified common elements be maintained in the future? In addition, remediated common areas such as the Old Middleton Slope, the rain garden, the GTR entrance, the “117 project,” and the curve vis-à-vis the Highland Abbey are common areas being maintained currently by volunteer residents, but that is not a long-term solution. The HW board needs to consider how to finance the ongoing maintenance of these areas in the future because they are an important element in the HW’s market value. Should the LSC and board manage proposals in the future so that only no- and low-maintenance plantings are allowed? Are there ways to finance the maintenance by increasing the hours of the groundskeeper?

[7:15: Cathy Kennedy and Pat Gillette leave]

[7:20: Linda O’Hern arrives]

6) Pat W. summarized the response of the Highland Abbey to the letter authored by Cathy Kennedy: Gail Nordheim (President of the Highland Abbey board) met with Dylan, Susan, and Pat and agreed that the area between the OMS remediation and their slope needed clearing. She suggested that the 2 boards share the cost of determining the property line and then – once the area to be cleared has been determined – share the cost of cleaning out the underbrush and invasives (i.e., through HW volunteers and coordination with Shawn). Pat W. is optimistic that we can carry out this project that will protect the investment in the OMS remediation.

7) Mulch:

- discussion of using “our own” shredded leaves for some mulching to avoid hauling in undesirables from outside; this would take place in October/November with volunteer help and Capital Lakes as a limited experiment to test its efficacy; the leaf mulch would be used in limited areas such as the GHR curve, the 119-117 GTR area, the corner between 124 GTR and 229 GHR, and around the GTC circle to dampen weed growth and improve the soil quality; volunteers will monitor whether this works.

- about 20 yds of mulch were applied in the spring, but because of the high cost of mulch now there will be no general mulching this fall; the remaining funds will be used for spot mulching critical areas, e.g., small eroded areas of the OMS, the GTR entrance, around the electrical box between 309-311 GTC, and where otherwise needed.

8) Volunteer work days are planned for:

> **Saturday, Aug. 12**, 9-12 noon; work on 310 GTC corner and plant 10 dogwoods near the GHR parking curve (purchased with donated funds), meet at GTC circle!

> **Friday, Aug. 25**, 9-12 noon (projects TBD)

9) The next LSC meeting is scheduled for **Wedn., Sept. 13, 6 pm**, at Susan Sweeney's residence (214 GHR). All residents are invited and encouraged to join us.

10) The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.