

Landscape Stewardship Committee Meeting
Minutes of May 7, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm at the Broderick residence (221 GHR). Present were: Hayden McCann (presiding), Pat Gillette, Kristi Reitz, Suzy BuengerBonnie Broderick, Marc Silberman (note taker), and Dylan Duhr (Prima Management).

Minutes of the April, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

Because Dylan had another appointment, we began with his report:

- the spring clean-up and mulching has been completed; Alpine is making available mulch for individual residents at \$30/cubic yd delivered and \$45/cubic yd installed
- Good Oak came through for a “first” pruning, and will continue as the budget allows over the course of the summer/fall
- the annual inspection of the hollow drainage system will be on June 1, including this time a required “topographic”
- the scrub evergreens at 219 GHR were removed
- Good Oak has completed the garlic mustard spraying on both sides of the GTR entrance
- 5 trees were cut down between 212 and 210 GHR without seeking board approval and without filing a replanting plan in this highly erosion susceptible corridor
- 117 GTR has asked whether the overgrown buckthorn “forest” around the adjacent parking can be cleared or cleaned up; the residents are interested in doing something within their 5-foot perimeter (they should file any plan they intend to implement) and the LSC has noted the request but it may be too big a job for the volunteers and needs to be coordinated with all the adjacent neighbors

The Tree Inventory subcommittee met and produced a removal list of dangerous, stressed, or susceptible for Mike Roarke; trees identified for pruning will be treated in the fall (cost comes to \$7500). The remaining \$2500 will be held in case of storm damage during the summer/fall 2014. The LSC passed the motion unanimously.

The subcommittee reports that 40% of the ca. 450 trees on the HW property are ash trees and threatened by the emerald ash borer, which has now reached Madison. Only 50 of the ash trees on the property are identified as “high value” (i.e., trunks of 10” or more) and worth treating by injection. The treatment is undertaken every 2 years and costs about \$100 / tree, so an average of \$2500 / year for the 50 high value trees. The LSC supports the proposal for presentation to the Board to make this a long-term commitment and add it to the future budgeting of the HWCA.

The cost for completing the storm damage repair/remediation in recent months came in less than the \$3500 budgeted. There was about \$1100 left over, of which \$400 was used for spraying the garlic mustard carpets near the GTR entrance. This leaves about \$700 for priority “green projects,” identified during the spring walk-through in April. Those recommended by the subcommittee and chosen by LSC consensus are:

- (\$100) plant a spruce-type tree at the Glen Hollow entrance and move the maple elsewhere (too delicate to be so exposed)
- (\$200) plant replacement arbor vitae(s) in front of 102 GTR
- (\$100) remove dead tree on the GTR perimeter, across from the back of 314 GTC

- (\$125) plant replacement dogwoods along the GTR perimeter where dead tree is removed

The (revised) Old Middleton slope remediation project has been finalized and work will begin soon; the assessment will be collected (decisions forthcoming at the next HWCA Board meeting).

Volunteer “waterers” for summer 2014 have so far been identified as: Fran Breit (for the newly planted arbor vitae in front of 202 GHR), Marie Barroquilla for the rain garden; Jim Spiegel for the newly planted weeping Siberian spruce. We still need a volunteer waterer for the corner area around 302 GTC / 119 GTR.

After a successful volunteer workday on April 19, the LSC is planning its next work day on Saturday, May 31, 9-12 noon (rain date is June 7). Among the tasks: check for hand-weeding the sprayed carpets of garlic mustard on both sides of the GTR entrance and weed the rain garden (behind 301 – 307 GTC); there are other clean-up tasks to be undertaken, depending on how many helpers show up.

There has been no response at all to the call for common area volunteers during the summer, so this still needs to be addressed, perhaps in the upcoming newsletter. The LSC is looking forward to a newsletter that hopefully will include information about the emerald ash borer plight, a reminder to new and old residents about conforming to the agreed upon “application process” for landscaping projects both inside the home perimeter and in common areas. The LSC also recommends that prior to every planting season, i.e. every February/March, the management should send out a reminder to all HW residents concerning the procedure for remediation / planting on the property, with reference to the lists of recommended plants and trees now posted on the HWCA website.

The LSC is concerned that new residents are not being informed adequately about the guidelines and regulations governing the HW community. All residents do sign a legal statement that they have read the declarations and rules and regulations when they close on the property, but the reality is that people don’t study them, understand them, or remember them, especially in the stressful situation of moving and setting up the household. The LSC would like the board to consider some more directed procedure of meeting with new residents to greet them and inform them of some of the important things to consider in the community.

The next LSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 7 pm, at the Buenger residence (315 GTC). All residents are encouraged to come and participate in the LSC deliberations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.