

Landscape Stewardship Committee Meeting
Minutes of October 2, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm at the Buenger residence (315 GTC). Present were: Hayden McCann (presiding), Pat Gillette, John Schimmelman, Suzy Buenger, Dylan Duhr, Susan Sweeney, Kristi Reitz, Cathy Kennedy, and Marc Silberman (note taker).

Brief discussion of Sept. walk-through with Jane Kuzma (Burr Oak) in preparation of HWCA Educational Forum scheduled for Oct. 10. Marc will try to locate the original plan/map of the Burr Oak Design to have available for the Forum; Hayden will bring to the Forum her large map of the HW property. The brief “social” begins at 6:45 (bring a dish of snack food or munchies!), the presentation at 7 pm. Bonnie Broderick is hosting the Forum at 221 GHR.

Minutes of the September 4 meeting were unanimously approved.

The volunteer waterers (Fran Breit, Sarah Rankin, Marie Barroquillo, Hayden McCann) have been doing a great job. Hayden will continue to try to contact the Sharers at 119 GTR, Scott Weiner (302 GTC), or Gudrun Buhnemann (122 GHR) to see whether they would take over responsibility for watering around the rock wall area near their residences on the GHR/GTR curve.

Hayden presented a draft of 2013 owner-funded at Highland Woods projects; several refinements and additions were made to prepare the document for the annual HWCA meeting.

Property manager Dylan Duhr had some ideas on better pruning for the property. Currently there are 2 “phases” of pruning, the common areas (mostly the GTC island, ca. \$500/annually) and the residence perimeters (ca. \$1500/annually). He contacted DJ (at Capitol Lakes) who indicated possible interest but he would need to examine the property more carefully to be able to make a firm bid. Dylan also mentioned Stephen Bassett as a potential pruner who could be contacted for a bid. John Schimmelman raised the idea of seeking a “groundskeeper,” i.e., a gardener on retainer, to do all of the maintenance we now parcel out to various agents (i.e., lawn-mowing, pruning, spreading mulch, leaf collection, etc.). John and Dylan will air this idea at the next HWCA board meeting. Over the winter a subcommittee consisting of Hayden, Kristi, John, and possibly Cynthia Cauthern will try to come up with a detailed proposal of our expectations for a pruner or groundskeeper.

Dylan also reported that 118 GTR will be removing some trees, mainly in back of the residence, leaning toward the home (owner-funded).

Frank Hassler has submitted to the HWCA board a “preferred list” for trees and for shrubs / plantings that – after the board accepts it – will be posted on the HWCA website. These designated plantings can be chosen by residents to plant in the 5-foot perimeter without seeking additional board approval and will also help residents determine the proper plantings for owner-funded remediation in common areas (this latter continues to need board approval).

It is hoped that the volunteer teams for the common areas will complete their work in the remaining weeks of the “season” (i.e., tending to weed plucking)! In addition, there will be the

volunteer workday on Sat. morning, Oct. 5, with Susan, Kristi, and Cathy as team leaders (focus on garlic mustard plucking along OMR by 102 and 104 GTR and on buckthorn along the GHR parking abutting the Highland Abbey). On Sat. morning, Oct. 12 there will be another opportunity to volunteer, with Marc, Hayden, and Pat Gillette as team leaders (working on plantings in the Hollow and at the curve near 122 GHR, putting in vinca, viburnum, sumac, and pachysander donated by Susan and Suzy).

The residents around the GTC cul de sac need to water the new crab apple tree until frost sets in and again in the next growing season, probably to be divided up on a weekly basis as needed (Marc, Hayden, Suzy, Kristi will keep their eyes on it – either stretching hoses or hauling buckets of water).

The ash tree inventory has not yet been completed by Mike Roarke.

This was the last LSC meeting of the year; we all agreed that – in view of the fact that we had no money to spend – the LSC and the residents did a lot of important work during the previous 6 months. We also expressed our gratitude to Hayden for exceptional leadership and dedication. The next meeting of the LSC will be on Wedn., Feb. 5, 7 pm, at Pat Gillette's residence (206 GHR). Following this meeting, there will be an early property "walk-through" to begin a priority list of projects for 2014. We are hoping that in the 2014 final budget there will be \$10K to invest in land stewardship projects as well as an additional \$3.5K to complete the "rest" of the hail damage remediation to trees and shrubs.

Other business: for Phase 1 of the OMS project, it was suggested that probably Mike Roarke could do the buckthorn removal at 223, 221, 219 GHR (there are rather small buckthorn almost exclusively at the top of the slope) at an estimate of ca. \$500; the planting of about one dozen smaller saplings along the top of the slope (including "water bags") was estimated at ca. \$2000. These estimates will be shared with the HWCA board for their discussion of the budget for 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.