

COUNTRYSIDE PROPRIETARY
GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2023

1) CALL TO ORDER

- a) Meeting Called to Order via remote attendance at 7:00 PM.
- b) Attendees: Penny Francke (Chair), Diane Blunt (Welbourne), Terri Hess (Foxfield), James Krips (Rokeby), Pamela McGraw (Oakridge), Barbara O'Connor (Belmont), Timothy Shamble (Oatlands), Jim White (PMP), Chris Codino (Advantage Landscape)
- c) Absent: Ron McNulty (Morven)

2) COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION

- a) Approval of the Agenda. Terri moved that the agenda be approved as written; Barb seconded the motion. Jim Krips abstained; all others approved. Motion carried.
- b) Barb moved that the minutes of the March 2023 meeting be approved as written; Pamela seconded the motion. Jim Krips abstained; all others approved. Motion carried.

3) RESIDENT & GUEST PARTICIPATION

- a) None anticipated at this time.

4) ADVANTAGE ITEMS

- a) Monthly Report

Herbicide applied in April raised many questions because the signs posted throughout the community were inadequate, in size, distribution, and references to supporting documentation. Chris Codino of Advantage mentioned that last year's signs had been misplaced, and he agreed that he would work more closely with PMP before the next application, to ensure better notice to the community, and better coordination with PMP in making information available to residents.

Chris commented that the turf is looking good especially on CountrySide Blvd. Chris advised that the turf aeration and lime applications would be applied when timing was optimum, and in coordination with other herbicide treatments.

After last year's incorrect pruning of the forsythia along Algonkian Parkway, the plants have luckily rebounded, and Chris asked whether Advantage can prune/shape them. Pamela provided master gardener POV instructions to Advantage (1/3 of older wood to be removed, bushes to be trimmed to a more uniform size/height, etc.).

Terri asked about Burning Bush at light opposite where bushes were taken out by accident, that have a gully and exposed roots. Advantage to take a look.

Pamela commented that the hillside work surrounding the CountrySide entry sign on Algonkian Parkway across from Foxfield looks great. Chris will provide revised suggestions for planting enhancements around the sign by next meeting. Penny requested any Committee members who had good pictures of the CountrySide entry signs send them to her, and she provided a brief summary of the MOKO App that will be introduced this year for digital amenities passes, community news and notifications, and more.

Barb reported that the bamboo removed from Belmont last year is already returning, with stems already 2-3 feet high. Chris will have the Advantage crew evaluate the area. Committee will have to prioritize other areas for bamboo removal within the constraints of the Invasive Species budget.

Jim Krips reported that the crepe myrtles planted at the Rokeby tot lot in May 2022 are not doing well. As that cultivar is difficult to obtain, Chris proposes replacing the current bushes with 5 Pocomoke crepe myrtles at no cost.

b) Requested Proposals

Pamela and Barb have been drafting residents to volunteer to help with the watering, but the watering schedule must be coordinated with the AEC pond treatments, as the pond water shouldn't be used to water plantings for so many days after a treatment. Advantage will submit a proposal for watering.

5) POND ISSUES

a) Update on the pond grant and work schedule.

Pamela provided a status update for Saturday's planned work on the pond project.

6) PMP REPORT

a) Monthly Financial, Major Projects, and Invoice Tracking reports were reviewed. Jim White will send the Committee members clarifications on the invoicing on the pond fountain. Jim W will also add a "neighborhood" tag/column for the projects list and the Trees Removed list. Jim W will be preparing a list of anticipated expenditures for the rest of 2023, at Penny's request, so that we keep within our budget when considering any other neighborhood enhancements.

b) The Tree List was reviewed. The trimming/limbing up work on the Foxfield evergreens on Spotswood has finally been completed, thanks to Jim W's persistent follow-up with Riverbend.

7) OLD BUSINESS

a) Diane moved to approve the finalized version of the Welbourne traffic survey; Barb seconded. Approved unanimously by those present.

b) Jim W advised the Committee that he has had trouble getting companies other than Advantage to give us "stump removal" pricing; he will look for opportunities to "bundle" work for competitive bids.

8) NEW BUSINESS

a) Oatlands enhancement behind Jeremy Court: Tim has worked with Barb and Pamela on suggested changes to mitigate the erosion problem and to generally enhance the area; Jim W. will request a proposal from Advantage.

9) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a) Pamela briefed the Committee on her participation with an informal coalition of the Grounds/Landscaping committees of other local HOAs. She advised of a growing emphasis on planting native species wherever possible, and she mentioned that some HOAs are even revising their covenants to require residents to plant native species in preference over invasive/non-native plants and bushes. This is all in aid of strengthening/supporting the pollinator community; she will keep us posted on further developments.

10) ADJOURN

- a) Pamela moved to adjourn; Terri seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:19PM.
- b) Next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held remotely at **7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 17, 2023**