

November 11, 2015

SVOA Landscape Committee

Landscape Report to the SVOA Board of Directors for November 12, 2015

The Landscape Committee met two times during October to continue work on the SVOA Landscape Specifications to be used with the 2016 Landscape Maintenance Contract. As reported in the September meeting of the Board, the Landscape Specifications were combined into two parts: Single Family Lawn and Pruning, and Common Area Lawn and Pruning. Previously they were: Single Family Lawn, Single Family Pruning, Common Area Lawn and Common Area Pruning. The Board approved this change but asked the Committee to revisit other changes we made in the 2015 Specifications. On two subsequent meetings, October 14 and 30, during lengthy reviews, the Committee made some of the requested changes.

As requested by the Board we removed all supervisory language from the Specifications so that it could be placed into the body of the contract.

We are proposing that the 2016 Specifications include dates for completion of work so that the Committee will be able to facilitate contract compliance enforcement. A penalty provision for incomplete or late work is to be placed into the contract: When work is not completed by a specified date a monetary penalty (decided by the Board) is to be imposed on the contractor.

The Committee proposes additions to the 2016 Specifications: treatment of invasive weeds such as horsetail rush, spurge, vetch, crabgrass, barnyard grass, and other weeds that emerge throughout the year in lawns; pruning of small trees up to a height of 15 feet; St. John's Wort to be pruned every three years; shrubs to be pruned at least once a year. We would like to see the shrubs in the village attain their natural shape rather look like mushrooms and meat balls. The requirement is to prune according to the plant variety's seasonal requirement and natural form.

The Landscape Committee has a concern of continuing drought conditions, as widely predicted. If the prediction proves to be true, Stoneybrook Village will likely lose many more of our valuable trees and shrubs as witnessed by our dead and dying Himalayan birch trees and various shrubs seen this past summer. The Committee has had many discussions concerning our water-stressed landscape and plan to seek advice and quotations, from licensed landscape professionals, for the repair or replacement of the present drip irrigation system.

Richard Miller,

Landscape Committee Chair