

POND Committee – 2016 Annual Meeting Report

POND COMMITTEE

Sheila Coxon, Chair

Janet Cornwall

Bob LaPort

George Novak

Henny Chambers

Tim Cornwall

Jan Napack

Karen Stephenson

Richard Embree 2016

Established in 2011 the Pond Committee researches, evaluates, and provides recommendations to our Board regarding solutions to existing problems, changes, and improvements to sustain a healthy, balanced, and attractive pond environment.

I. Appreciation – Pond Committee Members – recognize.

Appreciation to Richard Embree who passed away this year.

Founding member of the Committee; we will miss him.

II. Walkaround with Tony Livermore, Supervisor, Gaia

Landscapes. Inc. To facilitate communication between SVOA and Gaia, the contract, as most contracts do, includes a requirement for joint oversight. This has been a very productive and positive experience. Tony and I walk the ponds and surrounding landscaping reviewing all aspects of the contract.

Specifically, we focus on:

- **SVOA Ponds –**

- Algae and other sediment that naturally accumulates because this is a **detention pond**. Gaia introduced bio socks into the ponds when they took over in 2013. The bio socks restrict and/or prevent algae growth and subsequent sediment via a release of naturally occurring chemicals that arise from the barley straw decomposition.

- We review the functioning of the fountains. Both have been removed for the winter and stored in the little house on the berm.
- We review surface weeds; condition of the lilies which are cut back each year to prevent their takeover of the ponds.
- **SVOA Landscaping around Ponds** – performed biweekly.
 - We review the lawn service – through proper application of fertilizer, mowing, weed removal, continues to look healthy.
 - We review shrubs & bed service to ensure weeds are under control; shrubs properly pruned
- **Irrigation** – now that Gaia has a key to the control box, they can turn irrigation on if they encounter a problem.

III. **Accomplishments** –

- **Gaia Landscapes**, our Pond and Pond landscape contractor, removed a Mountain Ash in the easement behind 4753 H (Lot 18) overlooking the pond and replaced it with a Nyssa sylvatica “wildfire” species. Because it is planted in common area in the Pond, ARC reviewed and approved. Our management firm WCM approved completion.
- **Bullfrogs** – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife states = bullfrogs decimate native species and eat native frogs, lizards, snakes, birds, eggs, fish and introduce diseases to native populations. Plus, they are loud. ODFW encourages killing them. Residents on the Pond reported being awakened repeatedly.

This year Tony with his son and associate killed a number of bullfrogs and relocated a primary food source, chorus frogs to Mary’s River forest. In addition, we sought a longer-term solution and installed a Tomahawk Live bullfrog trap in the south pond area. The trap, in

combination with the herons, have greatly reduced the bullfrog population. Note: one female bullfrog produces on average 20,000 to 40,000 tadpoles. Tadpoles take 3 years to mature to a bullfrog.

Noting a decline in the trap's bullfrogs, we conducted research and found bullfrogs hibernate in response to cold winter underwater, lying on top of the mud or partially buried. We will investigate removal early January 2017 once the Pond Committee receives its 2017 budget allotment.

- **Plantings at the pond edges** and within the rocks to add shade and texture

- **Next week Gaia will begin in the Center** of the Pond around the pump house \$1729
 - removal of 6 large Mugho pines
 - separating the existing Miscanthus grasses and installing grass clumps near the removed pines
 - install drain rock in the area around the pump house where pines were removed
 - install shrubs including 6 Spiraea douglasii and Scoulers Willow
 - install dark hemlock bark mulch in area

- **2017** – more planting, more bullfrog removal, project for the North Pond – we postponed working the North Pond this year until the irrigation project was completed.