

## POND REPORT JULY 2019

### Walk around with Tony Livermore, Supervisor, GAIA Landscapes, Inc.

Tuesday, July 2, 2019, Tony and I walked our ponds and surrounding landscaping for which they are responsible under contract. We reviewed all aspects of the contract and observed the following:

- SVOA Ponds.
  - Several “free spirits” are springing up among the north pond bushes facing Country Club – they are Sunflowers. Two years ago, the birds brought a Sunflower plant to the back of our pump house, and we enjoyed watching it grow to its fullest. We’ll do the same with these Sunflowers.



- GAIA moved the north pond fountain a few feet north to avoid spraying pond residents’ backyards.
- SVOA Landscaping around ponds. Performed bi-weekly.
  - Lawn Service – edging and weeding. GAIA has applied crabgrass pre-emergent, moss control, and pre-emergent weed control. The organic fertilizer being applied will provide less “food” for the red mosquito fern that grow in the north pond during the summer.
  - Shrubs & Beds Service – weeds are under control; shrubs pruned.
  - At the south end of the border between the pond landscape and resident 4721 H’s backyard, a border bush is growing into the sidewalk. Email to Kurt explained that either NLS needs to prune this bush or if the owner has a “no not prune” stake, the



owner does.

- Pond Signage. Questions were raised at the Board’s June meeting about our pond signage. Below is a summary of the history and rationale for the placement of these signs and a suggested replacement for the current entrance sign for the Board’s consideration.
  - “Please do not feed the ducks” signs. According to several original owners, the Declarant had these signs installed at the north and south pond to limit the duck population because the food is messy and fouls the water and for the well being of the ducks. Articles on ducks reveal the typical food most people feed ducks – bread – is bad for them. It can lead to obesity, malnutrition and a crippling condition known as “angel wing.” Too much free food may also endanger ducklings by teaching them to beg rather than forage.



- “Danger please keep off rocks” sign placed behind our pump house and in front of rocks early in SVOA’s development has significantly reduced adults and children climbing on the rocks. A long-time resident who lives along the pond water feature notes that when there was no sign near the waterfall, she would frequently walk out to tell adults and children not to climb on the rocks. When the pond committee was addressing pond changes in 2011, the waterfall was described as an “attractive nuisance” and could be an insurance issue if someone was hurt while climbing on it.



- “Please NO Trespassing” placed at the entrance of the north pond mound and “Please Private Property” placed at the entrance to SVOA were installed last year as a result of visitors with their dog climbing on the mound. The rationale was that with the City park Starker nearby, the signs alerted non-SVOA personnel that SVOA ponds were private and not a public park. As one long-time resident overlooking our ponds noted, since these signs were installed requesting non-SVOA personnel to respect our property, she has not had to tell children “not to throw rocks” into the pond or let their dogs swim in the ponds. In sum, these signs along with the “Danger Please Keep Off Rocks” serve safety and liability purposes.

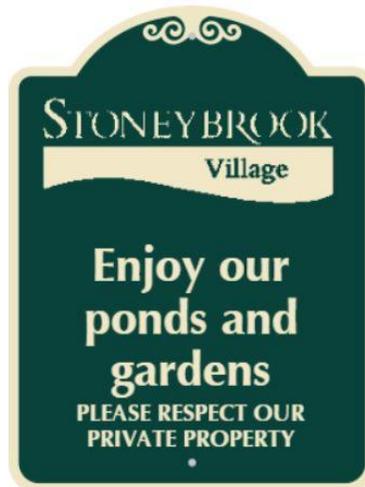
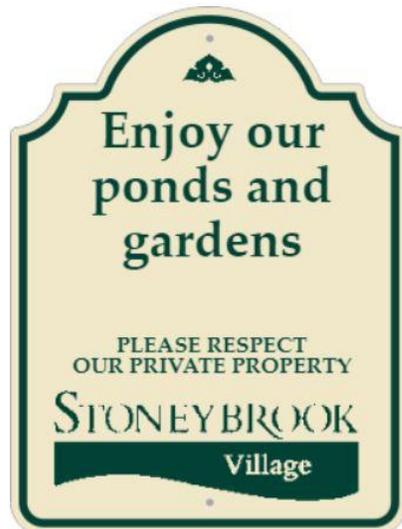
At entrance to north pond mound



At entrance to SVOA



- In re-thinking the pond signage, the Committee recommends replacing the current entrance sign “Please Private Property” with one of the following 2 choices:



One of our pond resident's daughter-in-law (graphic designer) redesigned the signs which the Committee believes offers an artistic rendering of welcoming yet a notice that these ponds are private property. Because last year Trista, manager of the Lodge, voiced some concerns about the entrance sign, I asked her opinion on the replacements – she said “I love both! Very nice!”

Details about the signs are as follows:

#### 2 sign design options

- 18" x 24" sign
- 80 mil thick, rust-proof aluminum
- Pre-drilled holes for easy installation
- 8ft predrilled post and locking screws to secure sign

Cost = about \$100 plus \$25 for designer time.

If the sign is 18 x18, cost would be about \$10 less.

If the Board approves replacing our entrance sign with one of these options, the designer has requested our SVOA logo be emailed to her. I will send to Kurt her contact information.