

**Landscape Committee Meeting**  
**Landscape Committee – Meeting Minutes**  
**March 23, 2016**

**Committee members present:** Dick Olivanti, Larry Smith, Mike McLean  
Calvin Johnson Ryan Gardner (visitor)

**Residents present:** Heather Parsons, Judy Maxwell

**1. Yard Waste Pick up**

This year the Landscape Committee will offer, on a trial basis, a Yard Waste Pickup Program (annual flowers, leaves, etc.) twice, in the spring, and late October **All Yard Waste must be put into disposable paper bags, and left at a central location in the community – the visitor parking area on Oakland Hills Circle by the well water pump house.** Brickman will pick up the yard waste on their regular community visits. The program's continuation will be evaluated by the Landscape Committee for its usefulness. More complete details will be e-mailed to residents in April.

**2. Replacement Trees**

The Landscape Committee has been asked to assume the responsibility to approve all decisions on the replacement of common area deciduous and evergreen trees in the Oakland Hills Community. Decisions on replacement trees will be based upon location (to structures, other trees) and cost (type of tree, size, and budget). A landscape subcommittee will be formed to coordinate the replacement tree program.

**3. Irrigation & sprinkler system monitoring**

The Landscape Committee has been asked to monitor the irrigation and sprinkler services to Oakland Hills community, including routine service calls, repairs, and resident service requests. The objective is to reduce any extraneous service expense.

**4. Spruce Evergreen Issues: Spider Mites & Needle Cast Fungus**

We have a very large population of spruce evergreens in the Oakland Hills community and, depending upon many factors, spruce evergreens are susceptible to a variety of adverse conditions. A survey of the spruce evergreens, conducted by the Landscape Committee, has shown many trees showing symptoms of spider mite infestation, or needle cast fungus, and the need for some type of evergreen management program.

An effective, inexpensive, and the least complex spider mite control measure, requires the involvement of residents: water can be forcefully sprayed from a hose onto the evergreen trees to dislodge the mites. Insecticides to kill mites and other insects are available at garden stores for spraying onto evergreens when necessary.

At this time the Landscape Committee will be concentrating on an Evergreen Management Program, which will include the spraying of all evergreens in our community for the potentially more invasive evergreen disease -- needle cast. The Evergreen Management program will include two (2) sprays of an evergreen fungicide for all evergreen trees in the community. If landscape funds become available in 2016, a tree- fertilizing program for the newer, younger and less mature evergreens will be initiated. Our objective with the Evergreen Management Program is to stop any current or potential infestation of the needle cast fungus, reduce tree stress, and improve the overall health of our spruce evergreens.

This program proposal was prepared by a the Brickman Group's certified arborist with the review of the Landscape Committee chairperson and committee, and Calvin Johnson, Gardner Management Group. The program was approved by the Association Board and is included in our 2016 budget, and will be monitored by the Landscape Committee and Gardner Management, and implemented by the Brickman Group and Tru Green Tree Service starting in the spring of 2016.

#### 5. Water Features

Ponds #2/# 2A -The water feature behind Gray Oak Cove and Oak meadow Cove continues to run 24/7. Ice and snow covered both pond surfaces this winter, but the stream stayed open all winter.

Waterfall & Ponds #2/#3 – The Landscape Committee was briefed on the waterfall operations issue at our meeting on March 23. R & A Water Features removed the pump in early December to protect it from damage from freezing water, and it is in storage at R & A Water Features. The cause of the waterfall shutdown is still being evaluated by water feature specialists, and specific recommendations will be forthcoming.

**Resident Comments/Questions:**

**Pond #2 & Portage Creek Pond - Is there any spraying for mosquitoes?**

We have not had any mosquito spraying at Oakland Hills, nor is any planned. We have a large population of tree swallows that seem to control the mosquito population.

**Portage Creek Pond – what purpose is the pond in the Portage Creek area?**

The small pond within the revised Portage Creek watershed is the beginning of the marshland that is an integral part of the water system. The southern boundary of Oakland Hills Condominiums property is the south bank of Portage Creek. It is important to note that the revised Portage Creek watershed is a protected wetland, and that Portage Creek has been designated by the Michigan DNR as a designated trout stream.

**New Committee Member** - A new resident Judy Maxwell, a Master Gardner, asked to join the Landscape Committee. Larry Smith, Chairperson, presented a motion to the committee to include Judy Maxwell on the Oakland Hills Landscape Committee. The Committee unanimously accepted. We welcome Judy to our committee!

The Landscape Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

LMSmith  
3/25 /2016