

Landscape Committee Report January 2012

Virtual Meeting held on 23 January 2012

ATTENDEES: Don Karas, Tom Chapman, Patty Higgins, Rob Goetz, John Companion

OLD BUSINESS

1. At the December BOD meeting, Tom and Don presented our concerns for continuing erosion problems at the Lower BMP. We showed some graphic pictures of the problem and a new product called “Flex-Mat” as a possible solution. The product is not cheap, and would cost in excess of \$400K to apply to the entire BMP. We recommended that the worst 1000 feet of the shoreline be done this year. The BOD agreed to the necessity for the prevention but asked for pricing on alternative options (Rip Rap, Vertical Barriers, etc.). Tom agreed to get some alternative quotes. **Reported results of additional research to BOD at January meeting and they approved funding of NMT \$50K from Operating Reserves to begin restoration of worst 1000 feet of erosion.**
2. Patty has done an exceptional job with Smithfield Gardens on the Upper BMP, completing phase 1 of the project. This will probably be a multi-year project, and she has some ideas about getting some of the businesses around the Upper BMP to contribute to the effort.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Patty has requested additional funds for the Upper BMP project (see below). **BOD approved two of the three.**
2. I have asked Richard Duncan to get a quote from Basnight to move the Cypress near the pump house that is being crowded out by other evergreens. **No answer yet.**
3. I have also asked that he have Basnight straighten (re-plant) the leaning tree in the Lower BMP garden. **No answer yet.**
4. Patty asked Smithfield Farms for a design plan for the alleyway behind WW (near the railroad tracks), and was told that until there is some irrigation installed there is no use in pursuing it further. **The BOD is pursuing a parallel project of getting the area cleaned of debris and using free mulch to fill in the trenches and low areas.**
5. Tom has requested funds to maintain and add to the beautification efforts already done to the Lower BMP, and to start a project at the Emily Dickinson end of the property, planting trees to hide that ugly area and prevent runoff/soil erosion (see below). **BOD approved pending Courtney’s research on getting cheaper Mulch.**
6. Request approval of funding for projects for 2012.

- a. \$2,250 for mulch/fertilizer/HollyTone to improve the appearance and growth of the plants along the Northeast boundary of the Lower BMP
- b. \$750 for trees, weed-stop, mulch, stakes, and fertilizer to plant 30 trees along the Emily Dickinson boundary
- c. \$1065 for three 8-10 ft Crepe Myrtles along the Northwest side of the Upper BMP to fill in the open space there
- d. \$510 for Miscanthus Grass, Muhley Grass, and Fountain Grass around the recently Rip Rapped culvert at the Upper BMP.
- e. \$1775 to cut back and apply herbicide (3 applications) to the woody perennials along the North shore of the Upper BMP (in the water). **BOD did NOT approve this request pending review of research and determination of the necessity.**

Respectfully,

Don Karas, Chairman