

SMC Garden Committee
Annual Report – Dec 9, 2021

The SMC Garden Committee was busy at work during 2021 with 7 very active members: Tom Finnie, Sue Forrest, Linda Gillet, Gabriele Hoffmann, Carrie Randall, and Bo & Carol Oleksiuk.

At the end of 2020, the committee did a walk-around of the property and identified the things that we would like to accomplish in the next year. We asked the Board to have BBL take the out dying plants and trim the healthy plants to help them thrive. The work was accomplished with great results.

Prioritizing our goals, in April we asked the Board to consider taking down built-up leaf matter and decayed pine straw debris that has built up over many years. After discussion it was agreed to test out one cul-de-sac and see what the result would look like; #137-142 was chosen since it has the most trees. The work was done in August at a cost of \$3300 for labor, removal of debris, and laying new pine straw. The resulting take-down is a big improvement.

One Committee member, Carrie Randall and her husband were updating their landscape at their Charleston home and donated numerous plants in June and July. Five committee members got together and planted over 25 green leaf and azalea plants; these were placed in areas where owners are here most of the year and would be responsible for keeping them watered and healthy. Tom Finnie and Bo Oleksiuk dug the holes, and Linda Gillet, Gabriele Hoffmann and I helped with watering and taking away dug up roots and debris. After we finished these plantings, we also trimmed the plants and cleaned up the ground near the bridge going to Marsh Winds.

For the present holiday season, Gabriele and I went to buy 6 plants to place at 3 cul-de-sacs, and Linda Gillet volunteered to make red bows for all of the parking area entrances and the SMC sign. Linda, Gabriele, Sue Forrest, and I attached greenery to the bows, and they were hung up just after Thanksgiving to adorn our shepherd's hooks throughout the Christmas season..

Just a reminder: owners are encouraged to do landscaping by their cottages, but plans must be approved by the Board before work is done. Consideration should be made for planting varieties that do well in our area and are heat and deer resistant, and owners are responsible for keeping them watered.

The SMC Garden Committee will keep improving and beautifying our SMC area in 2022!