

Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes/Summary
February 20, 2020 at 10:00AM

Committee Members: Jean vonSchilling, Cora Semmes-Bryce, Jim Matthews, Becky Clarke
Residents Present: Louise Briere

Becky provided a summary/update on various grounds issues based on a recent walkabout with Alan Vaughan, Vaughan Landscaping, HT's landscaping firm

Crepe Myrtles: Vaughan has trimmed the crepe myrtles at the front entrance and feedback on the trimming has been positive (not "crepe murder"). Vaughan has been asked to trim the crepe myrtles in the front of the building in a similar manner; however, the four crepe myrtles closest to resident balconies need to be trimmed below balcony level to prevent buds from dropping on balconies and to keep bees away from resident balconies. The crepe myrtles on the rest of the property will grow naturally this season.

Weed growth on the Property: Due to the warm winter, weeds are sprouting on the property, especially along the south fence (wrought-iron fence) to the point that the weeds look like a ground cover. Vaughan has been asked to destroy the weeds, through the use of a herbicide, but not Roundup. Other areas of thick weed growth will be given the same treatment.

Mulching This Spring: Due to spring rains and the parking lot sealing project, mulching last year was significantly delayed. As a result, the decision was made to mulch the front areas of the building only. This year all beds on the property will be mulched. We are waiting a price from Vaughan on the cost of the mulch. *Update since meeting: The cost of mulching all beds far exceeds the budget. This project is being re-evaluated.*

Grinding on Holly Stumps in Front of Building: At the direction of the Fire Marshall, the large holly in the front of A wing was removed last fall since the holly was obstructing access to the fire stand pipes. The stumps of the holly were left in the ground which will grow back over time. Hathaway will contact the firm that removed stumps on the property last spring and get them to remove the holly stumps.

Plantings in the "tree holes" on the North Side of the Property: The Grounds Committee recommended and the BOD approved the planting of a Redbud and an Agusa Dogwood in the tree holes last fall. Unfortunately, the plantings did not occur because tree stumps were discovered. The stumps have been removed, so these plantings will now proceed. Becky suggested that the plants and work be done by Great Big Greenhouse since their prices are

competitive, convenient to Hathaway, and response time is prompt. *Update since meeting: The plants were planted by Great Big Greenhouse on March 5, 2020.*

Planting in the #1 point near the loading dock: With the removed of the dead dogwood, the Committee discussed a plant for this area. A narrow/vertical growth Camellia was suggested since it will add seasonal color. Again, Great Big Greenhouse was suggested as the vendor to provide this service. *Update since meeting: The plants were planted by Great Big Greenhouse on March 5, 2020.*

Resident donation of \$200 for plants of seasonal color: Mary Arginteanu would like to purchase \$200 worth of colorful plants for Hathaway. Louise Briere would provide assistance in planting these flowers. The Grounds Committee gratefully accepted Mary's offer provided that the plants are placed in existing plant beds (NO expansion of plant beds) and the plants do not cause any additional maintenance tasks by Hathaway's landscape firm.

Review resident email re: various Grounds ideas:

- Placement of two large planters at the front entrance containing seasonal plants – The Committee needed clarification on the placement of the planters (front entrance or front steps). Becky confirmed with the resident that placement would be at the front entrance. Becky advised the Committee that the Common Area Committee is reviewing new signage for the front entrance and the decision for any planters at the front entrance should rest with the Common Area Committee.
- Remove the plastic lattice cover over the drainage pipe on the northeast side of the property. The Committee agrees it is an eyesore and should be removed. Becky will follow-up with Wendy.
- Place borders around beds to prevent the landscaping firm work from encroaching on beds. Committee members are not aware of any bed damage by the landscape firm but will follow up with the resident for clarification.
- Remove the "sick" azaleas in the dogwood area along the north side of the property – Becky advises and the Committee agrees that the azaleas at Hathaway have been neglected. Becky advised that she pruned a number of azaleas of dead limbs after last year's growing season. Becky said she will examine the azaleas after this year's growing season and see that appropriate action is taken on the azaleas (remove dead ones and prune dead limbs).
- Prune acuba along the north fence: The Committee said they would examine the acuba to see if it needs pruning and will take appropriate action.
- Add some height to the "Rock Garden" at A wing ramp by transplanting daylilies located in various places on the property. The Committee adamantly opposed this idea since

the height of the plants may create a visual hazard for cars using A ramp. The objective in removing the junipers in this area and planting “low” plants was to ensure no visual hazard for driving in this area.

- Add additional plants to various beds on the property. The Committee has no problem with this resident’s request to add additional plants to existing plant beds provided beds are not expanded and no additional work is created for our landscape firm.

Based on the resident email outlined above, Louise Briere began a presentation of various planting ideas for the various beds on the property. Unfortunately, the Grounds Committee meeting had to adjourn at 11:00am due to other commitments by Committee members. As a result, Louise’s presentation was abbreviated. Becky will follow-up with Louise on her ideas.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Clarke