

Turtle Rock Retention Pond Committee Meeting Minutes May 20, 2020, 9:30 am, Zoom

Members present:

Melody Barackman, Chair (mbarackman@gmail.com)

Michelle van Schouwen, Secretary (mmvanschouwen@gmail.com)

David Bryan, Turtle Rock Board of Governors Liaison (governor1@myturtlerock.com)

Curt Gilroy (curtgilroy@gmail.com)

Douglas Smith (smithdrjm@verizon.net)

Ed Olson, Manager (edward@sunstatemngement.com)

This was the first meeting of the permanent Turtle Rock Retention Pond Committee.

The committee unanimously elected Melody Barackman as Chair and Michelle van Schouwen as Secretary, and welcomed Curt Gilroy, who has joined the former task force team as a member of the permanent implementation committee.

The committee has received one request from a Turtle Rock resident to join the committee. Melody and Curt have communicated briefly with this individual. The team agreed that Melody will send him the revised implementation plan (revisions to be made following this meeting) and learn if and how this prospective member can support the mission. Melody will ask him for a bio, and the committee will review the membership request at (or prior to) our next meeting.

The committee further agreed that five members, plus a Board liaison, may be an ideal size.

The committee discussed the implementation plan draft, which has been initially reviewed by the Board of Governors. Michelle will make revisions to move some plan dates and to clarify our current process regarding buffer implementation in common areas and behind homes.

The committee discussed revisions to text and graphics for the marketing document Melody created. The primary revisions will assure that the “what homeowners should do now and next year” material will be more prominent, and that graphics will best represent both the layout of the buffer and the before and after appearance of shoreline. Doug is drafting a buffer diagram, and Curt (and perhaps others) are providing buffer/erosion/pond photos. Melody is spearheading revisions. The Board needs to see the marketing document prior to buffer implementation, and we plan to provide this for June 2.

The committee discussed best methods to achieve homeowner buy-in, including possible later pond ambassadors to support residents (concept to be readdressed at a later date, with perhaps one person per pond, TBD). Members agreed that achieving full homeowner compliance will likely take time, and that beginning with a strong recommendation to grow a buffer this year, and following with mandatory buffer implementation next year remains our current plan. Also, Curt and others agreed that a “manicured” buffer may be more palatable to many homeowners than a wilder look.

Starting the buffer on all applicable pond shorelines will be essential to getting homeowners onboard, and David and Ed will check on whether Bloomings can do this at no extra cost until

new equipment is required later on. They will meet with Bloomings prior to the next Board meeting, so that the buffer can hopefully get started soon.

Nice Way's buffer is also in progress, as are Doug's, David's and some other backyards'.

The committee feels the common-area buffer will likely require trimming about once a month once it reaches 12" height.

The committee discussed Aquagenics spraying, and the "leaching" of spray onto the edge of the buffer, causing plants to turn brown or die. The planned 6" gap, with aquatic plants beyond the gap, will eventually help with this issue. We agree that homeowners must be made aware that buffer development is a process and that the desired final effect will be attractive as well as functional, but we may see a little "untidiness" in the growth phases.

The Board of Governors is ready to move forward with tilapia harvest, and Ed Olson will contact vendors for this ongoing, no-expense service. Specifications include replacing all non-tilapia captured alive into the ponds, and removing any tilapia captured, no matter how small.

The committee will seek communication opportunities, including a "ponds update" in the TR newsletter, and potentially a section of the Turtle Rock website, with documents and updates. Melody will reach out to editor Judy Bentz to discuss newsletter opportunities.

We will schedule our next meeting after the June 2 Board meeting. Ed Olson will plan to attend as many of the committee meetings as he can.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Action items summary:

Review new committee member request: Committee

Revise implementation plan: Michelle

Lead marketing doc revisions: Melody

Create shoreline graphic for marketing doc: Doug

Take shoreline/pond photos for marketing doc (if room) and TR newsletter: Curt/team

Talk with Bloomings re: common area buffer growth/trimming, including any cost: David/Ed

Create draft Board resolution: David, with support from Doug as needed

Communicate with Judy Bentz re: Ponds ongoing newsletter section: Melody

Get information re: tilapia removal vendors: Ed

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle van Schouwen, Secretary
May 22, 2020