

PONDS AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021 – SLOAN CLUBHOUSE PORTICO

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 AM by Chairman Bruce Sieving.

Attendance:

Linda Kulp, Kurt TeKolste, Ray Buckley, Bruce Sieving and Karen Windau (Board Liaison)

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 5, 2020 meeting were approved following a motion by Ray, seconded by Linda.

Old Business

1. Pond Activities & Issues

- The aerators for Ponds 1, 2 and 4 were removed by Ed Osterhuber of Coon Hollow on November 20th. They were cleaned and stored at his facility and then redeployed on April 10th of this year.
- Pristine Green removed the shrubs from around the Pond 1 well site in January and also rerouted a resident's drain discharge away from the site. This work was performed in anticipation of the well pump and piping replacement to be performed by Powell Pump Company.
- The Geese Chasers contractor was contacted by Jeff Bevan on January 21st due to Canada Geese activity at all three retention ponds.
- Two geese deterrent decoys (a coyote and black dog) were purchased and deployed at Pond 2 on February 24th; they were repositioned about once a week as a trial alternative to the contractor and his dog. Linda characterized the decoys' effectiveness as marginal. It was agreed that they would be stored and then positioned at Pond 1 next winter to determine if they would be more successful on a smaller pond.
- The brownish color of Ponds 1 and 4 was discussed. Both ponds have higher than acceptable phosphorous levels (32 PPB in Pond 1 and 111 PPB in Pond 4) which is likely causing the excessive algae growth. Rather than treating with Phoslock – which was already performed in Pond 4 – the Committee agreed to have Coon Hollow add black dye to Pond 1, which will inhibit sunlight penetrating into the water, inhibiting algae formation. Since the estimated cost is \$200 to \$350, Board approval will be sought. Pond 4's condition will continue to be monitored, with limited copper dosing to be considered as a possible solution in the future; testing of the pond's well water may also be performed in an effort to find the source of the high phosphorous levels.
- Small trees at the shore of Pond 2 were removed by Pristine Green in January.
- The repair of the leak at the Pond 2 well discharge pipe was removed from the work scope for Powell Pump due to higher than expected cost. Karen will speak to Jeff about having the contract handy man make this repair.

2. Irrigation Activities & Issues

- The below ground drip irrigation systems at the Sloan Clubhouse experienced six leaks last year (two caused by contractors planting new shrubs), reinforcing the notion that these five zones may be nearing the end of their useful life. Bruce will prepare a brief description of these systems that Jeff will then use to obtain an estimate for their replacement with conventional spray head systems. The estimate will be used for the 2022 budget process.

- Additional days/times for watering were programmed at selected zones last fall to help establish new plantings designed by the Landscape Committee.
- Hydroscares winterized our five irrigation systems on November 20th and will restore service on May 19th.
- Powell Pump is scheduled to remove the 15 year old Pond 1 well pump and its steel drop pipe on May 7th; they will install a new Goulds pump and thick-wall, corrosion resistant PVC pipe. This work is intended to correct the insufficient water pressure feeding the Sloan Clubhouse irrigation system.

New Business

1. The 2021 approved ponds budget is \$13,500 and our contractors are Coon Hollow and Geese Chasers.
2. The 2021 approved irrigation budget is \$5,300 and the contractor is Hydroscares.
3. It was agreed to not pursue any preventative maintenance on the Pond 4 Kasco fountain aerator. It was also agreed that if that aerator fails it will be replaced by a fine bubble aeration system similar to those in Ponds 1 and 2.
4. Treatment of the ever-flourishing cattails on the shores of Ponds 2 and 4 will be treated by Coon Hollow this fall, at no additional charge.
5. Committee members agreed that trapping, removal and (off site) relocating of snapping turtles from Pond 2 is still advisable and will begin in July by Coon Hollow. This service does entail additional costs.
6. The Regency Hills entrance irrigation system "hot box" was again ripped from its moorings by high winds. The four corners of the fiberglass box are now irreparably damaged. Rather than replace the box in kind (\$620 material plus installation labor) the Committee agreed that a redesign is appropriate. Bruce will prepare a description of a new (longer) subsurface box to replace the two back-to-back subsurface boxes. The valves and backflow preventer will then be re-piped down into the new box so that a cover, flush with ground level, can be installed. This written description will then be used by Jeff to seek bids for the re-worked system.
7. Following up on the Landscape Committee Chair's observations, Bruce will meet with Mary Tilger to identify which of our 58 irrigation zones she feels are being over-watered. Any reduction in duration and/or days will reduce the community's water costs as well as the wear and tear on our equipment. The schedule of the meeting will be shared so that other Committee members have the option to participate.

Other Business

1. Pond 2's bubble aerator power plug was recently replaced by Coon Hollow in an effort to eliminate GFI circuit breaker trips of the system. Linda will continue to monitor aerator operation and reset the GFI breaker if needed. Three trips of the Pond 1 system were experienced last week so Jeff had our contract electrician investigate while he was on site; the electrician switched GFI outlets in an effort to correct the problem.
2. Scheduling of the next Committee meeting will be determined later in the season.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM.