

PONDS AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 – Sloan Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 9:39 AM by Chairman Bruce Sieving.

Attendance:

Linda Kulp, Ray Buckley, Kurt TeKolste and Bruce Sieving

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 3, 2021 meeting were previously approved by email vote of Committee members.

Old Business

1. Pond Activities & Issues

- The aerators for Ponds 1, 2 and 4 were removed by Ed Osterhuber of Coon Hollow Lawn & Pond Services on December 4th. They were cleaned, stored at his facility and then redeployed on March 20th of this year.
- A new Pond 1 well pump and PVC drop pipe were installed by Edward Powell Pump & Well Drilling on May 7th; Powell also installed a new solenoid valve to the Sloan Clubhouse irrigation system. In early November Pristine Green planted four hollies as a vegetation screen near the well equipment site.
- Blue/black dye was introduced into Pond 1 beginning June 5th by Ed Osterhuber and was supplemented as needed through the fall. The cost of this service was \$90/month and proved successful in inhibiting the growth of algae in the pond.
- Having proved unsuccessful in deterring Canada Geese on Pond 2 last spring, the dog and coyote decoys were deployed on the smaller Pond 1 on December 30th. As of this meeting the Geese Chasers contractor service has not been initiated for 2022.
- The Pond 2 well PVC discharge line leak was successfully repaired in early July by Al the Plumber. Excavation adjacent to the well casing to expose the leak was performed by the contract handyman.
- On September 2nd rains from Hurricane Ida caused the emergency spillways of Ponds 2, 3 and 4 to overflow. No damage occurred to the pond infrastructure, which speaks to the quality of the design and construction of these facilities.

2. Irrigation Activities & Issues

- On November 3rd during planting of new shrubs at the Sloan clubhouse parking lot center island by Pristine Green, the zone 15 drip piping was badly damaged. This zone was budgeted for replacement with spray heads in 2022. After discussion with the Landscape Committee's Mary Tilger it was decided to retire the old plastic piping in place and delay replacing it pending the successful growth of the new vegetation. It is Mary's opinion that a permanent irrigation zone may not be needed at that location.
- Winterization of the five RAP irrigation systems was performed by Hydrosapes on October 20th.

New Business

1. The 2022 Board-approved pond budget is \$10,700, with contract services provided by Coon Hollow and Geese Chasers. The \$2,100 requested item for a Pond 4 bubble aerator system was removed by the Board; if the pond fountain fails the cost of such system will be covered using reserve funds.

2. The 2022 pond utilities budget is \$5,000 to cover the electric usage of aerators and well pumps.
3. The 2022 approved irrigation budget is \$6,700, with contract services provided by Hydroscares.
4. Bruce informed the Committee that, based on a discussion with Ed Osterhuber, Coon Hollow is no longer willing to trap and relocate snapping turtles from our ponds. The Commonwealth-approved hooks are, in Ed's opinion, too large to be effective and he is concerned about the turtle mortality he has experienced from his trapping efforts in the past. The Committee agreed with Linda's suggestion to monitor our ponds' snapping turtle activity going forward, with an emphasis on the safety of residents, visitors and pets. No further action will be taken at this time.
5. The Committee discussed the need, pros and cons of introducing blue/black dye into Pond 4 to inhibit the growth of algae as has been done in Pond 1. The 2022 Coon Hollow contract includes \$600 for maintaining the dye and bacteria levels in Pond 1 and \$1,800 for introducing and maintaining dye/bacteria in Pond 4 (if the Committee decides to extend that course of treatment to Pond 4). Bruce will contact Ed Osterhuber to gather more information on his Pond 4 recommendation.*
6. One of the Canada Geese deterrent decoys deployed at Pond 1 has elicited aesthetic concerns from at least two Phase I residents. After discussion the Committee agreed, given the marginal effectiveness of the decoys observed by Kurt, that the coyote will be removed. Ray suggested we consider the purchase of a second black dog decoy for use in future years. The Committee also determined that it would be prudent to activate the Geese Chasers contractor at this time to discourage nesting activity. Bruce will contact Jeff Bevan and the Committee's Board liaison, Doug Loutzenhiser, on this matter.
7. The Regency Hills entrance irrigation system "hot box" has failed again and is not repairable; Bob Derbyshire has repeatedly retrieved it after it came adrift and tumbled toward Black Rock Road during high winds. The Committee has provided a bid document to Jeff Bevan for reconfiguring the piping into a subsurface vault. Jeff has forwarded the specification to three qualified bidders; this budgeted project is expected to be completed this spring.

Other Issues or Questions

1. During an inspection tour of our four ponds last fall, Bruce mentioned to Doug the difficulty of maintaining sufficient level in Pond 4 during the summer months, despite significant use of the well pump to supply make-up water. One potential explanation would be a leak in the pond's earthen dam. In response to Doug's follow-up inquiry, a thorough inspection of the periphery of the dam was conducted on March 18th which revealed a totally intact structure with no discernable leaks. The Committee will continue to explore the role of natural evaporation, fountain-induced evaporation, well pump output and other factors that may be causing this low water level characteristic.
2. Date of the next meeting - to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM.

* Subsequent to the meeting, and following a discussion with Ed Osterhuber, the following motion was introduced by Bruce via email:

"The Ponds & Irrigation Committee recommends to the Community Association Board that we implement dye/bacteria treatment to control algae and odor in Pond 4 at a cost of \$1,800 per year".

The motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous email vote of the Committee.