

## Landscaping Committee 2016 Report to the Community

The Landscaping Committee urges all residents, both new and old, to review Attachment A of EMPOA's Rules and Regulations which details the responsibilities of the Landscaping Committee. Of particular note are the following:

- The LC has responsibility for maintaining common property and making recommendations for improvements to the Board. This includes managing our maintenance contract with Genesis. We are pleased to report that we have negotiated a 3 year extension of our current contract with Genesis with no increase in price which is a very welcome outcome. We would like to emphasize the clause in Attachment A reminding homeowners the LC Chair is to be the sole interface with the Landscape Contractor. This avoids confusion and the potential for added charges which are not part of our budget. If you have a concern that involves the work of Genesis (meaning it is on common property), please contact the Committee chair and do not address the matter directly with the Genesis workers on property.
- Also detailed in Attachment A are the responsibilities of individual homeowner which includes keeping your personal landscaping in good shape. Any changes to your personal landscaping must be approved in advance through the ARC application process. Replacement of dead shrubs with trees without change to the general appearance does not require an ARC application. Homeowners are responsible for watering their personal landscaping and help in watering common areas is greatly appreciated and benefits us all. In that light, we would like to recognize and thank the Ettingers, Judy Evans, Susan Hudec, Bob Shipman, Kevin Price, Mary Weaver and Joyce Turnquist for watering new trees and shrubs installed this year on common property.

The following is a list of projects completed by the LC in 2016.

- Boxwood added to back island
- Clean up of hillside across the pond, removal of invasive vines
- Cut back of winterberry, etc (2nd curve)
- End of BL 2:remove grasses, trim pyracantha, install 1 holly & 1 arborvitae
- Extend hedge along BL3 with 3 laurels & 9 burning bush
- Install of Hornbeam Tree by 7258/7260
- Installation of a cherry tree, extension of sod, add lirioppe between 7250 & 7252
- Installation of Arborvitae BL2
- Planting of annuals in spring
- Pruning cherry tree between 7256 and 7258
- Pruning of Crabapple trees to remove Fire Blight
- Pruning of Pear Tree on Green to remove sucker growth
- Removal of branches by tennis courts (branches cut by Brian Mullen)
- Removal of fallen tree by Merrimac fence
- Removal of Red Spire Pear by 7258

- Removal of Willow (7204) and pine tree (7252)
- Slope by Tennis Courts: Level existing wood chips and smooth out slope, define edge.
- Spray of spruces on Langley Curve (cost shared with Langley School)
- Treatment for Scale on Willow Oaks
- Treatment of Borers on Willow Oaks and Maples
- Treatment of pachysandra for Volutella Blight
- Treatment of Willow Oaks for Scale
- Trimming of pines for dead branches thru-out community

This concludes the basis of the LC's function and activities for 2016.

I would like to point out the personal commitment of the committee's members who have worked many, many hours throughout the year to assess needs, promote ideas for rejuvenation and preservation relative to the condition of existing landscaping. We assess whether it requires replacement, spraying for disease or other treatments. We also attempt to enhance our community with new plantings such as the back island. We have also in recent years made a number of steps toward providing better screening and some noise abatement from Route 123 including the trees planted on the bank by 7200 and along the path.

We are also not immune to issues of Mother Nature such as storm damage. In some cases removal is required and the necessity to replace such as occurred with the Pear tree by the Green this year.

The Committee welcomes suggestions and ideas from our homeowners. We work on a fixed number of dollars each year, so there are times where implementation is hindered by the budget.

By name, Judy Evans, Cynthia Liss, Anne Snyder and Joyce Turnquist have been the members of the committee plus myself, Brian Mullen. These members cannot be thanked enough for their conscientious commitment in making positive results for EMOA. Such undertakings as meeting with contractors, watering common property plantings, overseeing our sprinkler system, researching plant stock for types and growing conditions, keeping the books to ensure we are compliant with our budget, etc. I am more than proud of their efforts.

Lastly, Barbara and I are transitioning to spend the majority of our time at our home in South Florida. As a Virginian who was born in McLean there are obvious emotions attached to this decision. Clearly I will miss being in the Washington area, especially my neighbors and friends here at EMP.

With that said, I necessarily will have to resign from the Chairmanship of the LC.

My very best to all. To the many newcomers to EMP, I say we are a volunteer community which saves each of us some C Notes each year. Please get involved with your community and volunteer! We have worked exceptionally well as a committee with 5 members and I am pleased to say that Shirley Paul has

agreed to join the committee upon my resignation. This is Shirley's first time on a committee and we welcome a fresh perspective and her willingness to contribute to our shared community.

Brian Mullen  
Chair, EMPOA Landscaping Committee  
November 2016