

WILDWOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 27, 2020 @ 7:00 pm
Conducted virtually via Zoom

Board Members Present: Jaime Beane (President), Sukie Curtis (Vice President), Tom Hyndman (Past President), Elizabeth Woodcock (Secretary), Nancy Savage Marcus (Treasurer), and Walt Craven (Member-at-Large)

Association Members Present: Donna Levi, Maureen Connelly, Christina Ferland, John Lambert, and Vilean Taggersell

Call to Order/Quorum: Quorum declared at 7:10pm

Agenda

1) Approval of minutes

Sukie made a small edit that she resigns as VP at the end of the year (Annual Meeting) and not immediately. The Board approved the minutes from the 5/13/20 Board Meeting with this edit.

2) Survey/Piezometers

Owen Haskell has recommended that we install markers to measure sloping of the bank over time. Sukie asked about having horizontal as well as vertical markers installed as for more data points. John Lambert also suggested that the land could slump toward the water. Owen Haskell had originally said 3-4 markers along the bank and also one off the bank. Jaime will inquire with Owen Haskell about the various data points. There is money in the FY20 budget under two different line item that could be allocated for this purpose.

Piezometers had been recommended in the report of the Erosion Committee but the understanding is that the survey markers will help us determine whether piezometers are indeed needed.

3) Invasives Management

We received two proposals for professional management of invasives:

Anderson (adjustments made upon request after initial quote):

- \$2,800 for 3 feet of back and cutting of bittersweet from trees*
- \$18,500 to cut, clear, and remove debris (not root systems) of invasives across the entire bank if cut in fall/winter.

*Later was determined that this quote does not include cutting bittersweet from trees.

Gnome:

- \$2,080 – does not include cutting invasives on the trees.
- Joe Lynch, the arborist for Gnome gave the opinion that the cutting of the invasives on the trees need to be approached in phases over 10 years with most dire trees first.
- Gnome does not advise cutting all invasives because they provide bank stabilization; above quote is to maintain current view – first 3 feet of certain sections across bank.

Sukie questioned whether more research still needs to be done for long-term plan. Naturalist at Audobon, First Light Habitats both said invasives should not be cut in spring because it

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encourages growth. Gnome and Anderson are both booked through August/September. There is urgency due to spring growth encroaching on views.

Question posed by Jaime: As a neighborhood, are we interested in preserving or maintaining the view that we currently have? If yes, we need to budget for the management and put forth either volunteer or professional plan in place.

Donna requested clarification on the original charge by the board of the Erosion Committee – Had it shifted from the health/erosion of the bank to focusing on the view? Jaime noted that the survey, markers, piezometers, and important info came out of the committee work and helped us get to this point. Also what came out of committee work, were varying interpretations of Shoreland Zoning Ordinance and differing opinions on how the bank can and should be maintained. Sukie suggested sending a short survey to gain a better understanding what is important to neighbors and to gauge appetite for increased dues. Tom noted that the Annual Meeting Minutes reflected a proposal for “ongoing removal and replacement of bank invasives and view restoration.” Committee had been established to investigate “bank issues” – the preservation of view is not a new idea. John noted that in 2014 only one neighbor did not vote to spend \$4k on preserving the view and felt the opinion of the neighborhood is clear and time is of the essence. He implored the committee to move to allow cutting. Elizabeth pointed out that the neighborhood has changed dramatically in 6 years.

Christina Ferland posed the question: Are we saying that preserving the view and responsibly managing the bank are mutually exclusive? The Board agrees that they are not mutually exclusive but there are differing levels of complication and cost.

Cost will be an issue for any plan. **The Board will move forward with a simple survey of the Association to help inform a long-term plan of bank management.** Discussion will continue at the Annual Meeting.

With time of the essence with regard to the maintenance of the view, Elizabeth expressed a higher comfort level in hiring experienced professionals to do the cutting vs. having neighbors volunteer to do it. Vilean pointed out that hiring a company can be a cost-savings and a form of insurance in the event of conflict – it also keeps the issue within Wildwood.

A motion was approved by the Board to have Owen Haskell install markers on the bank.

A motion was approved by the Board to spend up to \$2,300 in the 2021 budget on professional management of the invasives about 3’ back at the top of the bank.*

There was more discussion about Anderson and Gnome, and whether a permit is needed for cutting 3’ back, if it is included in the quote, and who handles the permitting.

*The Board later decided to hire Gnome for the invasive management in the fall, contingent upon the passing of the 2021 budget.

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4) Annual Meeting

The Board discussed the challenges of holding the Annual Meeting during a pandemic. If held in-person, it would be hard to safely meet and actually hear. If held on Zoom, it would be very difficult to have a meaningful discussion with such a large group. Both pose problems. The By-Laws state that “the Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of June whenever possible” which gives the Board a little room to postpone until the end of the summer. In the meantime, the Board will finalize the budget.

Everyone agreed that the Fourth of July celebration will not be able to happen in the traditional sense for safety reasons. The parents on the Board pointed out that children have not been able to successfully follow social distancing protocols. Members brainstormed ways neighbors could safely celebrate on more of a household basis, and perhaps the firetruck could still drive through.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.