

Pond “Erosion” Steering Committee Meeting Summary

Date: October 13, 2016, 2:00PM-4:15PM
Committee: Bruce Berger, Bud Harris, Connie Hillman, Doug Brown, Janet Loomis, Lynn Romano
Present: Bruce, Bud, Connie, Janet, Lynn
Guest: Jeanie Fusaro

This committee meeting was the most intensely debated meeting to date.

The committee tried to find “common ground” to “move the decision making process along” finally deciding to start with what was thought to be the easier pond to deal with, the small pond.

Then, immediately there ensued an intense debate, testing everyone patience. Topics of debate included scope of project (land/shore land/water/filtration systems/plants/mulch beds/trees etc.), responsibility of the pond committee vs scope of responsibility of the common grounds committee vs the board; the goals and objectives of the pond committee vs others; attendance and participation of homeowners in the committee meetings, etc.

Finally a proposal of compromise was presented. Janet suggested that Bruce and Bud, as representatives of the pond committee, research and come to the next committee meeting with recommendations for how to mitigate/move the mulch beds back (approximately 4’ from the waters edge, but not to specify 4’) to prevent mulch from floating into the pond during heavy rains. Bruce and Bud would make recommendations (including costs) to the pond committee for stone, cedar bark stone, Belgian stone wall or plants to be placed between the mulch beds and the pond’s edge to prevent mulch from floating into the pond. Their recommendations would be discussed by the pond committee and based on the pond committee discussion either make it a recommendation to the Board or other.

The discussion eventually settled down and the committee proceeded as follows:

1. The committee agreed (unanimously) to have Bud and Bruce research and make recommendations to the pond committee about how to adjust the mulch beds to prevent mulch from floating into the pond during heavy rains. Bruce offered to donate and plant 8 - 10 mature gamma grass plants as a lark.

2. Bruce expressed concern for the rusted grate and baffle that are no longer effective in keeping debris from the pond filtration system
3. Connie stated that both the grate and baffle have been ordered but that she does not know the status of the order or who would install it. The committee agreed that Lynn will contact Jaime to determine the status of the purchase order for the replacement grid and baffle for the small pond (current ones are rusted and non-functional) and who would install it.
4. The committee agreed that Bruce will research cost of data driven erosion markers and bring that cost estimate to the next committee meeting.
5. Lynn agreed to send an email to the Board with the proposed costs for the markers as soon as we had the cost estimate.
6. The committee agreed to compose (and submit to the Board) another Eblast explaining the purpose of the markers and asking all homeowners to not remove or move the markers.
7. Connie offered to contact Dennis (to tell his employees) not to remove or move the markers.
8. The use of Cut-Rite/Dennis Halenkamp workers who are in the immediate area for cutting and grooming was not offered to rake the mulch periodically now or after the Bud and Bruce effort. There was concern that when the mulch is replenished it should not be higher than the highest “plantings/mitigation option” between the mulch bed and the pond edge.
9. The committee agreed not to consider “hard amour” but to “mitigate” the erosion by continued low-mow, low plantings and mitigating/adjusting the mulch beds, maintaining the filter system, keeping debris out of the pond to the extent possible while also collecting data (using erosion markers) to determine the status/extent of erosion over time.

Therefore, the committee agreed to deal with the small pond first, as follows:

1. No “hard amour” is being considered at this time for the small pond bank erosion mitigation. We will collect data over time, documenting the status/rate of erosion and once data is collected make adjustments and recommendations as needed.
2. Bud and Bruce are going to research and make recommendations (including costs) to the pond committee regarding options for dealing with the mulch beds “adjacent” to the small pond to prevent mulch from floating into the pond.
3. Lynn is going to confirm the purchase order and installation date of the replacement grate and baffle for the small pond filter system.
4. At the next meeting the pond committee will compose another Eblast to educate the community regarding the erosion markers.

Regarding the large pond:

1. The committee decided to discuss the large pond in two zones:

- a. Zone 1: from the Bottlebrush tree to the first corner of the alcove, first priority as it is the area with most erosion.
 - b. Zone 2: pond bank behind the homes and from the end of the filtration wall to the Bottlebrush tree.
2. Once the purchase of the markers is approved, Bruce and Bud will install the erosion markers around the large pond to collect data regarding the status/extent of erosion.
3. The committee will continue to discuss “hard amour” mitigation options, completing a pros and con chart and getting more detailed information so we can get a RFP completed.

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 3, 2016, 9-11AM at Lynn’s home.

Revised meeting summary emailed to the committee by Lynn Romano, November 3, 2016.