

TOLLGATE LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting, June 24, 2004

Meeting Details:

At Kathy Doherty's home, 8 p.m., June 25, 2004

Attending: Kathy Doherty, Terry Zawacki, Bob Donaldson and Terry Parsons

Old Business (Trees):

1. Bob Donaldson reported that the dead tree at Don Beyer's home has been replaced with a willow oak. It cost \$1,300 for the tree and planting from Merrifield.

2. Bob sought guidance on the four trees to be replaced behind his property. These are screen trees for Tollgate. Originally, screening trees were planted along the back borders of the development. Of these 99 percent are white pines, but these trees get too large, overhang properties too widely, were planted too closely together and were chosen largely because they are inexpensive.

Action Taken: The committee agreed that if a tree is dead, Tollgate would pay. Otherwise, if a property owner wants to remove a tree, the owner will pay for replacement.

Action Taken: The committee discussed what screen trees would be preferable and decided upon holly, one of the screen trees recommended by the city. Bob will check holly varieties and costs and let the committee know which variety seems best. He will then purchase and have them planted. Bob is paying for two of the trees. Tollgate is paying for the other two.

Action Taken: The committee also discussed the difference in price between the willow oak planted in the Beyer front yard and the price Tollgate would be willing to pay for screen trees. The committee decided our guideline for the proper amount of investment in treating or replacing trees will be the following hierarchy:

- ~~///~~ Showcase trees – older trees, historic trees or trees that have big impact on the appearance of the development
- ~~///~~ Middle level trees – trees in the front common areas
- ~~///~~ Screen trees – trees along the perimeter of the property

3. Bob is beginning the list of fall pruning chores to be done. Anyone with requests should let him or Kathy know.

Old Business (Landscaping):

1. Kathy reported that the missing boxwood in front of the Kahn's property has been replaced. Originally, a new one was purchased but it didn't proportionately fit, so one boxwood was removed from in front of the Doherty/Arthur house and put in the Kahn's bed and the new boxwood planted in front of the Doherty/Arthur house. It is not as full as the others there, but it's hoped it will grow to fill the space. Kathy also reported that two dead plants in the bed between her house and the Kahn's have been replaced.

2. Kathy reported that the front beds are in the process of being rehabbed following

Verizon's work earlier in the month. However, Terry got the name of the Verizon supervisor in charge of the work being done there on Wednesday, June 23, which further disrupted the bed. The committee will keep an eye on what needs doing following completion of the work.

New Business:

1. Joe and Theresa Romer want to move boxwoods from their back garden to the front bed and remove a spindly azalea, replacing it with a purchased plant.

Action Taken: The committee agreed Theresa would either engage Flores to move her boxwood and azalea or request a Work Party of residents to do the job. The new plant will be a Pireus Andromeda Mountain Fire and will be purchased by the committee.

2. Terry Z reported that the linden tree near Jim Guyette's house creates a drainage problem underneath.

Action Taken: The committee decided that it should check the nearby drain to make sure it isn't clogged and then organize a Work Party to either dig a round bed beneath the tree and mulch or expand the foundation bed nearby, or both.

3. The committee discussed the drainage issue between 106 and 108. The committee also discussed overall drainage issues within Tollgate and will consider recommending to the Board that money be set aside next year to investigate and solve drainage issues.

Action Taken: Terry Parsons will call the firm that did his back garden to see if they're interested in proposing a solution between 106 and 108 – perhaps gravel terraces topped by slate. If that company isn't interested, Kathy will ask Merrifield to take a look.

Homeowner requests:

1. Terry P asked that the committee investigate the uneven ground between his property and the Doherty/Arthur house. It is caused by old roots from a tree that has been removed.

Action Taken: The committee agreed to have Merrifield look at this spot and also a similar spot between Pat Towel's (former) home and the Franklins.

2. Bob mentioned that the downspouts at the Towel house do not feed into the sewer but spray onto the ground, creating a boggy area.

Action Taken: Terry Z will monitor this situation and recommend to the committee what ought to be done. That also is an area where a dogwood continues to struggle and Terry Z will watch that also.

3. Terry Z would like some solution for the planting bed between the Stephenson house and the Johnson house. Plants struggle there because of the large tree that uses all the available moisture in the area.

Action Taken: Kathy will ask Merrifield to propose a solution when they look at the uneven ground problem in #1 above. Depending upon costs, the committee will either organize a Work Party or engage Merrifield to plant this bed.

Potential Work Party Tasks:

1. Move boxwoods and plant front bed at Rhodes house
2. Dig beds or mulch area beneath tree near Guyette house.
3. Plant bed between Stephenson and Johnson homes

When final list of work is determined, the committee will set a date and enlist volunteers for the work party.

There being no more business, the committee adjourned at 9:50 p.m.