

TREE, BRUSH, VEGETATION AND NOXIOUS WEEDS COMMITTEE MINUTES June 16, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 12:59: pm

Present: Peggy Olds, Larry Raymer, Annette deLeest, Karen Pachman, Laura Frazier, Scott Winegar. **Guest:** Pat Bonneville

Introductions and Welcome: Peggy Olds, Chair, introduced all members, trustee and guest.

Old Business

- **Minutes:** May minutes were submitted to the Board for approval. Draft June minutes will be circulated by email to committee members for any comments/corrections. Peggy will submit June minutes to the Board for approval after review by the committee.
- **County response to right of way (ROW) tree cutting:** Peggy shared the written response she received from Karen Banish, Pacific County tree trimming, topping or removal in county right-of-ways. Ms. Banish's initial verbal response was not accurate, and she clarified in writing the correct response after checking with her supervisors. Property owners are responsible for trees in the right of way but they are not allowed to fall or top such trees. Property owner must contact Pacific County and County will do a drive by check of the trees in the right-of-way. The property owner is still responsible for covenant compliance but must work with the county or a licensed arborist to remove the trees within the right-of-way due to county concerns related to risk hazards. However, homeowners may do minor pruning or limb removal in the right-of-way to keep trees within covenant limits. See email from county for additional detail.

New Business

- **Tree Report/ Discussion:** Laura presented her report for June 2017. Six (6) new complaints were added to the 24 existing complaints and eight (8) were closed. We currently have 22 outstanding tree complaints. The committee discussed ways to handle old complaints, such as a 2012 complaint (#4072) where a fine and lien has been put on the property. Laura reported that our attorney is working with this complaint. Larry reported that the electric meter has been pulled from the house. Larry reported that he could no longer see the Yellow flag iris on property owners lot (#4691). Laura will call owner and find out if it has been removed. Laura will also call another property owner (#4786) regarding gorse removal. Peggy reported that the property owner (complaint # 4814) requested more time to comply with the tree height limitations on her property. Some of the trees are in accretion land which she does not own. She is getting a surveyor and completing some legal work to acquire accreted property from the county. The committee recommended giving her an additional 60 days to comply (by September 15th). Compliance officer (Laura) agreed and will notify property owner of the additional time to complete work.
- **Complaint process outline:** Annette presented a revised flow chart. After discussion, all agreed to a few additional corrections. Our guest, Pat Bonneville,

and trustee Scott Winegar provided additional feedback on very positive support for the document. Scott thought it might be a good idea to show the flow chart to some neighbors and solicit feedback. All agreed to the recommendations, including one last month of review, before finalizing the document for staff and committee use by our July meeting.

- **Community Outreach:** The committee continued its discussion about educating or informing our members about tree, brush, noxious weeds and vegetation issues via various Surfside media outlets. Ideas include: what to plant and not plant around your septic system; plants for fire safety control; deer resistant, low maintenance vegetation; planting with native species; management of Scotch broom; and tree trimming and pruning. Scott suggested a class put on by the State Forest staff (Dave Houck) would be very beneficial. Peggy recommended we hold it conjunction with the CRC during one of their events, like Earth Day, next year. She agreed to follow up with Houck/Winegar to determine options.
- **Other:** Volunteers are available to help the elderly or those with financial limitations comply with tree-related covenants. Laura did research on possibly providing a waiver of liability form for this purpose. Her findings are Surfside HOA cannot be involved with any agreements between the volunteer and homeowner for legal liability and risk concerns. This is considered private work between those two parties and would not involve the HOA. Scott suggested that the volunteer and property owner sign a stand-alone “hold harmless” document. This would allow someone to be on property helping but not to hold anyone responsible for any damage or injury that might be caused during the effort to help a neighbor comply with the covenants.

Chair, Peggy Olds adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm

Next meeting will be July 21, 2017, 1:00 at the HOA office

kjp/po 6/16/17