

Tree Brush, Vegetation and Noxious Weed Committee

Minutes September 15, 2017

Call to Order: 1:00 PM

Present: Peggy Olds (Chair), Karen Pachman (Secretary), Annette DeLeest (Trustee), Pam Harris, Larry Raymer, Valerie Harrison, Laura Frazier. **Guests:** Gary Williams (President, Surfside Board of Trustees (BOT), Pat Bonneville (by phone), Mike Cook, Kathy Preston, Andrea Williams, Kirby Smith, Chris Hanson

Introduction and Welcome: Peggy Olds (Chair) welcomed members and guests. Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

Comments by Gary Williams, President, Surfside BOT: Gary shared the following comments on behalf of Surfside's BOT. It was brought to his attention that very inappropriate and inaccurate comments were made by George Miller, a Surfside Board trustee. On behalf of the Board, Gary asked that the following be noted in the committee's minutes:

On behalf of the Surfside HOA Board of Trustees I'd like to apologize for the comments made by Board Member George Miller on his blog site recently. Although George's comments were his own and does not reflect the view of the Surfside HOA Board of Trustees he is a Board Member so his comments can be a negative reflection on the Board as a whole if not addressed. It is regrettable that George refuses to apologize stating that his expression has historically been used in the past, the flaw I see is that there are many other expressions that have been used in the past that are offensive and just because they have been used in the past does not make them acceptable. Once again I hope you accept my apology on behalf of the Surfside HOA Board of Trustees and be assured I am doing all I can to curb this behavior in the future.

The committee members thanked both the trustee that raised the issue for discussion and Gary for his efforts.

Old Business:

- **August Minutes:** Draft August minutes have been circulated and revised by e-mail. Karen Pachman moved and Pam Harris seconded the approval of August Committee minutes. Minutes were unanimously approved by the committee for forwarding to the BOT for final approval.
- **Information/Education Outreach:** Articles on Yellow Flag Ivy and Septic Tank Drainfield Vegetation Plantings appeared in the current Weekender. Committee members shared many thanks to Kimber and Laura for helping with this outreach effort. Peggy Olds reported that she got a thank you from Sheila Wallace about the articles and the office will enclose them in the New Member welcome bag.

- **Members Request follow-up:** Laura has met with Mark Scott (Surfside member and IT Specialist). He is working with Laura in response to a member's request to have easier access to information on Surfside building and tree height limitations. Mark is a GIS specialist and has developed a color-coded GIS overlay of all Surfside properties, making it very easy to identify an individual lots tree and building height limits. Laura is developing an icon button on Surfside's Homepage to take members directly to the GIS color coded map page. This work is expected to be completed within the month.
- **Policy and Procedure Discussion regarding Property Boundaries and Tree Markings:** Laura was unable to locate any old policy outlining Surfside's approach to locating property boundaries or marking trees at member request. She will draft a new policy for committee discussion next month.
- **Complaint Form Edit:** Laura revised the Complaint Form as discussed at last month's meeting.

New Business:

- **Tree Report/Discussion:** Laura presented her report for September 2017. Twelve (12) new complaints were added to the existing twenty-two (22) complaints and eight (8) were closed. We currently have twenty-six (26) outstanding complaints (NOTE: complaint # 4894 and 4894 will be removed from the Tree Committee list and put under General complaint category bringing the tree committee total to twenty-four (24) active complaints.
- **Complaint number 4893 & 4894:** Although bamboo is not considered a Class A noxious weed by Pacific County officials, it is a very invasive species. Kathy Preston, a Surfside member, is having trouble with a neighbor's bamboo plantings invading her property and septic system. She has asked this committee for help and suggestions. A neighbor planted bamboo and is not controlling it's spread to adjacent properties. The owner of the bamboo does not want to cut it away from the property boundary as he wants to maintain a privacy screen. Ms. Preston shared photos of the problem. She tried speaking with her neighbor, has contacted the septic maintenance specialists, landscapers and Pacific county officials. They all agree it needs to be controlled. Laura suggested that she can contact the offending party under Policy 5.4 with a general complaint which includes invasive species and harm to neighbor's property. Peggy suggested that additional education articles about invasive species such as bamboo and English ivy (Complaint # 4894) would be appropriate and consistent with the committee's revised charter. Pam Harris with the assistance of Peggy Olds will do more research for this article.

- **Pruning Workshop:** Peggy mentioned an upcoming class for those interested in learning more about tree and shrub care. Carpool available for anyone interested in attending. Details below:

Caring For Your Trees and Shrubs Workshop

Time: 2:00 PM-5:00 PM Date: 10/16/2017-10/16/2017

1 Sessions, Location: Columbia Education Center, Room:

Instructor: BEVERLY ARNOLDY

Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm

The next meeting: October 20, 2017, 1:00 at the HOA office.