

TREE, BRUSH, NOXIOUS WEEDS AND VEGETATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MINUTES...Oct. 17, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 1:00 PM

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS:

Chairman Raymer introduced those present:

Larry Raymer, George Miller, Valery Harrison, Jim Romaggi and Laura Frazier.

TREE REPORT:

Laura Frazier report and discussion.

There were previously 60 tree complaints. 23 new complaints were added with 30 closed. Total remaining complaints total 53.

Of the 53 total, the status is: 1 courtesy letter, 37 initial letters, 9 second notice letters, 2 certified letters, 2 letters with 30 day notice of fines and 2 fine letters sent..

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

Refusal of certified letters:

The committee discussed the situation of the member violation where the person has failed to make the needed correction and has repeatedly refused contact or certified letters. After much discussion it was determined that the committee had exhausted all avenues for compliance. The matter was turned over to the Business Manager for any further action.

Courtesy letter:

In response to a tree height complaint, a courtesy letter was sent to a member whose tree was just slightly over height and would need height reduction soon. Chairman Raymer pointed out that the pine trees can easily grow 5 feet or more in a season. He said that normally a tree height violation letter is not sent until the tree exceeds approximately 2 feet over height.

Trees removed:

Chairman Raymer reported that he had talked with several members who out of frustration with the tree height restrictions, had completely removed all trees from their property. Mr. Raymer said this is an ever increasing practice among members. This is certainly a practice not endorsed by the committee. The trees are a valuable asset in appearance as well as soil stabilization and water absorption.

Trees on Surfside property:

Several issues were discussed.

A previous tree complaint and investigation determined that the over height tree was not on a members property, but actually on association property that bordered Seabreeze Lake. The Board requested and obtained written permission from the property owner to traverse his property for the height reduction of the trees in question. Laura reported that Stan Jackson had volunteered to do the modification at no charge. The committee thanks Laura, the property owner and Stan for their efforts and cooperation.

The second association tree issue is on the East side where there is no tree height restrictions. In response to a complaint, investigation disclosed the problem as an association tree located in a drainage area was leaning over the property line and posed a risk of falling on the dwelling. The committee discussed the State and County regulations governing neighbors trees intruding on nearby property.. Most agreed that it was not the responsibility of the association to do any more than maintain to the property line. The property owner has the legal right to cut the tree off where it extends over the property line onto theirs. George suggested that it might be good public relations to remove the hazard. Trustee Romaggi presented the committee with a document that discussed trees that fall on neighboring properties and the property owners responsibility to remove the fallen tree. Mr. Raymer thanked Jim for that information. Laura said that she was contacting the association insurance company and that she had sent the information to Trustee Don Sheldon, Trustee of the Insurance Committee.

Gorse:

Committee co-trustee Jim Romaggi reported that he had been looking into the control of Gorse. He outlined the time consuming steps needed for eradication and control. He said he had viewed a video on line about it. Laura suggested that a link to that video might be something that could be put in the Weekender. Chairman Raymer thanked him for his input.

Info. In newsletter:

Laura suggested that the committee prepare an article for the Jan. 2015 Newsletter informing members of the care and maintenance of the fast growing trees. The committee agreed.

Adjourn: 2:00 pm

Next meeting: Nov. 14, 2014 1:00 pm