

**Chimney Hill Owners Association
Landscape Committee Meeting
Saturday, May 15, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee met at the Chimney Hill Clubhouse. Jane Cary, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. The following Committee members attended: Elaine Ahnell, Carlotta Gladding, Diana Gould, Keith Herbert, Pam Massey, and Carol Sewall.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of August 3, 2020 were approved by e-mail in the fall of 2020.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. **Pond Loop:** Jane, Carlotta, Diana, and Pam met on Saturday, April 24, at Carlotta's request, to assess the directional kiosk and recreation area at Pond Loop, and further, to discuss the overgrown trees and shrubs behind the Chimney Hill entrance sign. As a result, Maintenance has been asked to build a short flower bed for the Pond Loop kiosk, add something decorative or informative to the blank panel at the front of the kiosk, remove logs and brush from the recreational area, refinish benches and picnic tables, repair the electrical box, and add a new picnic table. We note that Maintenance has a heavy workload currently so cannot determine when the work will be finished, though at this writing, some has begun.
2. **Chimney Hill Entrance:** At the CH entrance garden, too many evergreens were planted early on and they now need to be thinned out. Keith Herbert will trim the overgrown trees and prune away dead branches. After the *viburnum* blooms, Keith will top it off, as it has grown too tall. The lilac will be moved to a location where it can enjoy more light. The decorative lights, some of which are malfunctioning, will be removed and/or rearranged. The big chair is in disrepair and will no longer be on display in the summer months.
3. **Fall (2020) Planting of Kiosks:** Elaine feels that the *chrysanthemums* were planted too late in the season last fall and did not present the display we hoped for due to frost damage. She suggests that we target September 20, 2021 for planting mums in the kiosks.
4. **Spring Plants for Kiosks:** One kiosk needs a new caretaker. Kathleen Comeau will now tend the kiosk at Binney Brook and Howe's Loop.

In previous years, we have identified the plants needed for each kiosk and shopped together for them at Rashed's. Jane proposed an alternative, which will be more efficient in the long run and require no assistance from Maintenance. Each kiosk will have a budget of \$56 plus tax to purchase plants. Caretakers will shop for the plants they deem appropriate for their kiosks. Faith will provide expense forms at the Office, which the caretakers will fill out and submit, with receipts, for reimbursement. The kiosks should be planted in advance of the Memorial Day weekend. Committee members thought this new flower-purchasing scheme was a good idea.

Elaine advised us of a new and effective deer repellent product called "Repel." It is available at Equinox Nursery in Manchester.

Gary, of the Maintenance Department, offered to provide topsoil with manure for the kiosks.

5. **Green Up VT, May 1:** Jane reported that there were participants from Chimney Hill and the project went quite well.

NEW BUSINESS

Fran and Bob Flynn, residents of Spruce Grove, asked for the Committee's approval for two landscaping projects: 1) to plant *hydrangeas* on their property, and 2) to add *arborvitae* to their own property and to CH common land adjoining their property, which was cleared to install water and electric access for their new house. No approval is needed for them to plant the *hydrangeas* on their own property. However, even though planting *arborvitae* on the common land will be an improvement, the matter must be brought to the CH Board for review. Concerns were expressed about *arborvitae* as a choice as deer like to eat them.

The Deerfield Valley Rotary's Garden and Live Music Tour will take place on July 17, 2021.

MEMBER CONCERNS

The issue of "sign pollution," which was addressed at the meeting of September 21, 2019, was raised again. Elaine suggested that the sign at the intersection of Haystack and Chimney Hill Roads concerning the safety of wildlife be moved further up Chimney Hill Road and away from the four other signs in that area. Thus, the sign would have more impact and be less distracting to drivers who might try to read all signs as they pass by.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, June 19, 2021 at the Clubhouse

ADJOURNMENT: 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Massey