

Committee Reports – November 2024

BUILDING COMMITTEE, Margie Cyr

The number of Small Projects continue to ebb and flow as they, for the most part, take less time to complete. The Large Projects remain at eight. There are two additional Large Projects that are being reviewed by the Building Committee. We expect to approve them this week.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES, Don Deraska

General: Not much new to report since last month. Planning to put some shelving in our shed @ Bayberry storage and organize our stored material a bit better (stuff seems to just get thrown in at the end of the season rush). Winter storage of golf cart & Polaris either done or will be [at least one Polaris needed to water installed landscaping].

Roads/signage: Still have to get replacement signs installed & decide on which roads need to be resealed. Repainting center lines along roads between Rt 1 & Beach Plum to be done once we decide if these are being resealed.

Drainage: Met with Curtis from Chester River Landscaping regarding our swale maintenance & he was made aware of our expectations. He wasn't sure that we'd need four cleanings per year - we left it that he would contact me when they were planning to perform this, or we would contact them when we felt it was needed. They came out last week and performed this cleaning and distributed pine straw along the east side of Beach Plum Rd (just about two blocks worth from Bridge to Bayberry Rd). Evergreen drainage work specifics dependent on exact DNREC plan for Kent Ave/Pine Path; most recent version received on 11/6.

Guard Shack area: Ken Griffin winterized the plumbing in the Guard Shack and foot baths on 10/19. Thanks Ken!

Beach Walkways/Dunes: Nothing new to report!

Fencing: Still planning to construct new gates along route 1 & Kent Avenue, replace the post & chain @ the west end of Addy Rd leading to Pine Rd with a vehicle-width gate & reinstall split rail fencing @ the opening between Short Rd & the Sea Colony overflow parking lot.

Enjoy the Indian Summer weather that's extended into Nov!!!!

EXTERNAL DRAINAGE, Margie Cyr

DNREC has sent us the revised Drainage Plans for Kent Ave. DeIDOT is currently working on installing curbs along that area of the road. We do not believe there is a connection between the curbing project and the proposed drainage project. We will continue to work with DNREC as

they move forward seeking the project funding and finalizing the agreements with the contiguous land owners.

LANDSCAPING, Barbara Friedman

- Our dedicated assistants Jo Ann and Christina are wrapping up the fall cleanup of garden beds, including the pollinators' and native plant garden on Beach Plum.
- On October 31, members of the Board of Directors and of the Landscape and Facilities Committees met with Curtis Facemir of Chester River Landscaping to iron out remaining issues with the current lawn maintenance and landscaping contract, also including swale cleaning, and to make sure they are aware of what we would like to have done in the future. Curtis was also presented with Blake Moore's recommendations on how to remove the invasive phragmites. Among the issues hopefully finalized are a working definition of "swale cleanup," collection and salvaging of pine needles for use on Beach Plum, reduction in overall number of seasonal mowings, given weather and other conditions, and a promise to perform core aeration and overseeding of community grass to improve air flow and overall health of the grassy areas. This would be in exchange for some of this year's mowings which all agreed were not necessary. Chester River crews were in the community on Monday 11/4 and did extensive blowing of debris from all of the ditches (with the pine needles transported to Beach Plum Rd). They plan to return near the end of the month to do similar work.
- Additionally, we asked that next year Chester River perform periodic weed control along Beach Plum. As an experiment, they will lay down bark mulch on one section of Beach Plum in order to determine if the mulch will control weed growth. Although a test block was picked that does not have any Evergreens (east side between Bridge and Addy) it is expected that pine needles will accumulate on top.
- Curtis agreed to rework the Signage Plantings plan to eliminate the proposed inkberries along Beach Plum and leave the Japanese Hollies in place (previously thought to be boxwoods). We discussed the need for MBA to irrigate because we don't have plumbing in place. Curtis indicated that Chester River would be able to complete the plantings by November 15.
- Chester River also will trim back designated bushes on Beach Plum that extend over the road and also that obscure corners and stop signs.
- In removing a dead pine from their property, Amy Witcover-Sandford found the larval remains of something that had bored into the bark and had penetrated the center of the tree. In remote consultation with an arborist who viewed the photo of the larva, they surmised it likely was a Pitch Mass Borer, which is a species of clear wing moth which lay their eggs in the bark and the larva feed inside the tree.