

Conservation Committee Minutes  
January 18 2016

In attendance: ~~Karen Anderson~~, Jan Burkhart, ~~Cheri Calvert~~, Judy Dauchy, VeeAnn Finnemore, Marleah Llewellyn, ~~Sandi Mottau~~, Greg Ware

To begin the new year the Committee reviewed and reconfirmed its guiding principles:

- Conserve Resources (water, energy, reduce costs)
- Positively impact our environment
- Maintain or increase quality of life.
- Maintain or increase value of homeowners and HOA property
- Develop and share educational opportunities regarding conservation

Additionally, the Committee reconfirmed its commitment to the three issues below, and added two additional areas: funding and education.

**1) Conserve water to reduce both our water bill and landscaping bill.**

Recommended Actions:

- reduce the amount of lawn currently being watered and maintained,
- install smart devices controlling watering,
- encourage the installation of low flow devices in units,
- disconnect downspouts that run into the bay
- encourage and help develop rain gardens in suitable areas i.e. close to downspouts.

**2) Rehabilitate the Riverhouse shoreline to support and diversify bird and pollinator species inhabitation.**

Recommended Actions:

- plant flora that will filter water run off and help remove pesticides and pollutants that degrade water quality and harm aquatic animals,
- plant flora that will encourage and support bird and pollinators – while not obstructing resident's view of the bay,
- Clean up Beach/Bay debris -
  - can we do anything about micro plastics in the bay?
  - how can we encourage environmentally safe boat maintenance in the bay?What is already in practice?

**3) Bring regional and native plant life into our landscape that are resilient to disease, will thrive in existing climate and soil conditions, and will attract birds and pollinators while maintaining or improving on the existing level of aesthetic beauty.**

Recommended Actions:

- develop right plant right place solutions. This includes locating/relocating plants that have similar needs in proximity to each other.
- request Landscape Committee and landscape contractor develop an integrated pest management plan that reduces our use of traditional pesticides and herbicides,
- improve soil conditions,
- redesign some planting areas.
- manage the Canda geese problem through landscape design, water edge plantings, etc.

**4) Find outside funding sources**

Recommended Actions:

- Clean River Rewards Program
- CLIP funding from EMSWCD

- Columbia Land Trust
- More research to be done on this

#### 5) Education

- develop opportunities for HOA residents to learn more about conservation issues.
  - bring speakers to Board and other standing committee meetings.
  - develop opportunities for HOA members to participate in conservation activities: help plant rain gardens, control invasives on riverbank, etc.
- put together a list of resources that all homeowners may be personally interested in - low flow toilets/shower heads/lighting, weatherization, Energy Trust resources, etc.
- offer assistance to those individuals s apply for BackYard Habitat certification for their garden space.

Other matters discussed.

#### TID and HBD corner

It has been proposed that the HOA sell the palm trees located at the corner of TID and HBD, and that any cash realized be used to help fund the cost to transition that area from grass to native drought resistant plants. Part of the rationale for this action is that palm trees are antithetical to the northwest/Cape Cod look that Riverhouse HOA members were seeking when the siding was replaced with cedar shingles. With that look in mind the Committee discussed that shifting our street side landscape primarily composed of vine maple, boulders and stone, along with other native plants would be aesthetically pleasing, enhance the northwest look, and support conservation efforts.

Actions:

- The Committee would further explore this matter with our new landscape contractors once they were in place.
- Greg will inquire if any of our neighbours are interested in purchasing the palm trees and bring that information back to the Committee and the Board. Listing the trees on Craigslist was also mentioned.
- Judy and Greg need to create a more complete plan about moving some plants from the corner of TID and HBD further down HBD to the first narrow strip of plantings.
- Marleah will phone the city to discover any rules/conditions that may be in place regarding the removal of those trees.

The Committee discussed other funding sources and whether EMSWCD had changed its bylaws to allow HOA to apply for funding.

Action:

- Greg will inquire as to any changes in MSWCD bylaws, and bring back to the Committee an update on other sources that we are already aware of.
- New sources need to be researched.