

DODD MARSH HIGHLANDER NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

Board of Directors

PresidentBuddy Sapp
Vice President Diane Kellogg
Treasurer John Heitkamp
SecretaryBecky Brown
Member at Large Jim Pfister
Property ManagerEd Burek

Architectural Committee:

Tom Dorn, Bruce Brown
Buddy Sapp, Liaison

Landscape Committee:

Bob Stone, Cindy Stone, Tom Dorn
Jim Pfister, Liaison

Newsletter:

Becky Brown

Snowplowing and Lawn Service

There were numerous complaints from homeowners, and Board members, on the quality and timeliness of snowplowing and shoveling this winter. The Board of Directors will compare other vendors to ensure we have the best service for our homeowners.

Marchrom's contract is up in October and the Board agreed that we should get bids in the near future for a different service.

Homeowners need to be aware that when walking to the mailbox or out for a walk, that snow could be covering ice which could present a danger of slipping and falling. The city is responsible for plowing and maintaining the road. Individuals need to be vigilant and cautious.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

The EAB issue was brought to the attention of the homeowners at the annual meeting. Becky and Bruce Brown attended a meeting in December with speakers Emily Ball (Lakeville Forester) and a representative from the state of MN. The Board had Emily and a rep from MN Green Core give a presentation at the March Board meeting. The highlights from the presentation were:

- EAB has been in Lakeville for 3-5 years and there are numerous pockets of infestation
- Injection is recommended for safety and environmental protection (every 2 years)
- The critical timeframe is during "full leaf out" which is usually May
- Owners need to act this year either by injection or removal before infestation
- Dakota County is under quarantine
- Emily stated that she was going to propose her plan to the city and that there could be a discount to associations on injections.
- Emily suggested that we do not plant any more maple trees since we have an abundance and we would not want to have issues if there was a maple tree disease

The Board decided to not wait to see what the city decides since that could happen outside of the critical timeframe of "full leaf out" in May. The Landscape Committee, Ed Burek and Dave Swanson (arborist) will walk the property, do a survey and propose a plan to the Board on which trees to save. An approximate cost to remove an ash tree is \$450-500 pending size. To replace a removed tree is \$650. The approximate cost to inject an ash tree is \$65.00.

Mailboxes

There is some homeowner interest in installing cluster mailboxes. This possibility was brought up and discussed at the March Board meeting. The advantages stated were:

- Security for sending/receiving mail
- Not needing to repaint boxes or replacement
- Not having mailbox doors left open
- Posts that lean
- Having parcels delivered in a larger box

The Board will be looking into the costs of having a cement pad installed, the options of configurations, the number of clusters needed and the cost of purchasing the boxes.

There will be more information provided to homeowners when we have more facts.

Security (Inside) Doors

A homeowner has asked about the possibility of painting the security door a color other than white. The Board will consider recommendations from the Architectural Committee of 3-4 colors and present this information at the annual meeting.

The homeowner would be responsible for paying for the change.

Some homeowners have stated they do not know how to get on our web site. The site is:

www.doddmarshhighlands.com

user name: **doddmarsh**

password: **highland01**

Decks

The Board discussed whether or not we would take action on decks this year. It was decided that we have a huge issue and expense dealing with the emerald ash borer this year so to not take action on the decks this year.

A Board member stated that it might be more fiscally responsible in the long run to look at replacing the boards with maintenance free product and to do a few each year. The Board member stated that a good quality product will last many years, need no maintenance and eliminate the inconvenience of homeowners putting furniture on the deck, taking it off and putting it back on the summer when they are trying to enjoy their deck. This is especially a problem for people who have raised decks.

The Board member will present product and facts at a future meeting.

T & C Leadership Meetings

Since January, some of our Board members have been attending monthly meetings the last Tuesday of the month at Perkins to share information with other townhome and condominium association board members in the area.

Items discussed are state regulations, EAB, contracted services and other homeowner concerns. It has been helpful to get different perspectives and find out what other associations are doing.

Looking Ahead

Ice cream social. August 7

Homeowner coffee meetings are at Perkins the first Monday of the month at 9:00 am

The board will meet May, June, July and September at the Lakeville library the third Tuesday of the month.