# Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes

# Wednesday, August 5th 2020 via Zoom

**Present**:Claudia, Cynthia, Deborah, Barbara, Frona, Caroline, Joe, Andrea

**Welcome and Recap:** Unusual to have an August meeting, thank you to everyone attending.

**Dog Waste Stations:** The Board asked for B&G opinion on whether to go with metal or plastic stations. B&G opinion is bio-friendly bags should be purchased for the stations and that the plastic holders and bins on the metal poles look sturdy. Lots of bags can be purchased with the $400 savings.

**Ongoing Work Update**: Nancy not here to provide budget and bid updates, but Lancaster is supposed to be providing bids on two stormwater projects this week (behind Courts 7, 8 and 15, and between 2 and 3), along with turf restoration bids for Courts 15, 13, 2, and scheduling for Tree Day #2, and a separate bid for addressing the biggest trees that need special equipment. Lancaster gave us a free half day on our first tree day – very nice as we are having them tackle more than 30 trees in the Meadows. Turf repair in Court 15 (from sewer line work) will be done after the tot lot construction is done since that is on the side they will use to move tot lot equipment in and out. New front bed in Court 14 put in Monday – 6 native plants that are a nice size and quite pretty. At a meeting with other village grounds committee chairs they all wanted to know what nursery Lancaster was using because the plants looked so much more healthy and mature than what they are getting from their contractor. We would normally never plant in August, so thank you to the residents of that building for the commitment to watering. Deborah and Frona walked neighborhood after tree day to check on status of the tree day and removals list. Lancaster has been steadily knocking stuff off the log.

**Fall Work Day Planning:** Andrea, Joanne and Barabara all met and looked at beds around pool. Looking to pull out and re-distribute a number of the plants on the crowded side. Preliminary plan includes numbering the beds to make work easier to coordinate. Looking to schedule in the first part of October when it will be easy to transplant grasses and hostas and echinacea. Nancy to connect with Andrea and Lancaster about timing the trimming of the grasses, prepping a new bed, and providing any other materials (soil conditioner, mulch, etc) we might need to have a successful day. Volunteers will be recruited to help on the day.

**Coordination with other Villages:** Deborah met with the chairs of grounds committees from Mews, Arbors, and Commons. Our not toxic lawn care (and Court 14 lawn) are going to be featured in upcoming All Fairlington Bulletin. Also put together a Google group for any member of any village grounds committee if anyone is interested. Idea is to share information on plantings, policies, contractors, water management, etc. In addition to touring our new native plants in Court 14, we also looked at a rain garden around the Mews tennis courts that has dramatically improved their flooding problem, and talked about the shade gardens in the Villages (North Side) where lawns are hard to grow. We have the same contract as the north side so will ask about those locations and find out if similar might work for us.

**Committee Leadership:** If anyone is interested in shadowing with Deborah and Nancy in anticipation of serving as the next chair, let us know! Thanks to Javier for volunteering to help with daytime walk throughs to look at problem areas and contractor meetings.

**Open Forum**: New bed request for the side of 3403 S Stafford Street approved. Resident plans for native hydrangea. Committee also encouraged planting some native evergreens for winter color – resident appreciative of the recommendation and will look at inkberry hollies. Nancy was handed $100 from the previous chair that is B&G money – committee will use it to put towards procuring a sundial for the pool enclosure in memory of longtime member Vic Slabinski. Deborah will work on procurement of low profile gator bags for our new tree and let Barbara know when they arrive for the tree watering volunteers. Nancy to ask Carlos if Lancaster can offer us some good plant recommendations and nurseries that we could share with residents. Shirin will draft a new FAQ for our site on helping residents who want to do some plantings on where to find good natives.

Next Meeting: September 9, 2020