

Grounds Committee Report 2022/2023 operating year

Sadly, for all of us, it became quite apparent last Spring that the care of our bit of paradise were about to change! Our Chef Steward, Jim Payson, was not going to be able to do the physical tasks of maintaining and enhancing our community, we had all come to expect. Many members did rally and helped with putting in speed bumps, cleaning up garbage, adding chains to garbage cans, making “food only” cans, trimming dead trees, mowing, burning, and list goes on. I applaud the community spirit and willingness of the membership to help.

On my last visit to Timbrshor, which was in early October 2022 to close my house and burn what had washed up on the west side, there was a large accumulation of wood and brush to be burned piled in the boat yard around the burn pit. I understand that some burning has been done to date though we still have some still to go. Hopefully we can get everything burned before July 1 cutoff for open burning. This was a task Jim accomplished every year.

Historically our biggest expenses have been mowing, trimming, cleaning beaches and weed control. {the cost increases when large trees wash in, and sawing and hauling the trees becomes necessary} The bill for 2022/2023 was around \$10K . Tree trimming and tree removal cost \$4,850 for the last 12 months and protecting trees with beetle blockers another \$2,744.

Lawn and cleaning services have been doing more and more of the work on the property over the years, as I said above, we paid around \$10K for Guy’s for the Job, thus we should increase our budget. Traditionally much of the work in the boatyard, grassy public areas, and beach below the four-plex has been done by Jim and Lorraine Payson. We now need to plan for those expenses.

Managing our forest is a big and important job. We will spend this Spring \$1,305.20 for WCH patches to protect fir trees and \$1,438.80 for Verbenone patches to protect pine trees. Both patches protect against beetle attacks, this program began over 15 years ago and has served up well. In addition, over the last 12 months we spent \$4,850 removing dead, diseased trees, and mistletoe, and about \$500 was spent on burning what was cut in the previous year in the area up on the cliff in the northeastern part of the community. We marked additional work which we could not get to because of budget. The marked area is around Cox’s and Wilson’s home and downward slope which has several dead trees which need removal. Addition funds in for tree work would be well spent as we again move west to east across the property.

As we continue to take out large trees because of disease, the natural replacement of seeds dropping and starting new growth is gone because of the deer overpopulation. {there is a new term called ‘deer browse line’ which denotes the height which the deer browse} how do we wish to replace these trees? I have planted many trees successfully at Timbrshor and would be happy to help other members become involved. A more holistic approach may be needed.

In October 2022, I met with Smith Paving about repairing our road at the entrance above the garbage cans, and at the corner turning into Osprey Lane. The bid was \$6,232 which I submitted to the Board. The Board deferred moving ahead in the Fall. The Board decided to move ahead with the paving repairs recently, and I have requested a revised bid from Smith Paving, which I am awaiting.

The Grounds Committee has become the catch all for much, boat yard, burn pit, garbage, road, trees, weeds, mowing, watering, speed bumps, and the list goes on.

When I was doing the westside and Jim the east, I had trees and he had the lawns, and anything mechanical it all worked. We now need more of us to become involved to take responsibility for certain tasks, to add ideas, and add some sweat equity to our home away from home.

Blake Johnson

Grounds Committee