

Foxtail Pines OA
Special Meeting - Weed Mitigation Plan
May 27, 2017 – 10am
Foxtail Pines Pavilion

Board members present:

Janine Snyder	President
John Davis	Vice President
Kyle Sandersen	Treasurer
Rob Martinelli	Secretary
Tammy Devine	Member At-Large

In addition, 10 Owners attended this meeting.

The Board acknowledges that incorrect notification was provided for this meeting with Owners. (30 days written and mailed notification is required for Owner's Meetings). We apologize for this error and will work to avoid this in the future. No Board actions were taken at this meeting. The Board appreciates the attendance of all and the discussions on this important topic.

The intended purpose of this informal meeting was solely for gathering information from owners regarding the draft weed mitigation plan. A draft of the plan (dated 5/24/17) was posted on Foxtail Pines website prior to meeting, and additional copies were available at the meeting for review. In addition, an Integrated Weed Management Plan which was developed by Jude O'Connor in October 2016 was posted on the website, and copies were available at the meeting.

Summary of discussion below:

Jude O'Connor summarized conclusions from the study she conducted in 2016. Of all the noxious weeds present in pond area, Canadian thistle is the most difficult to remove. The herbicide Milestone has been found to be an effective method in killing this weed. This product is considered to be significantly less toxic to animals including fish than other herbicides commonly used. According to her sources (Dr. Beck), using goats or simply mowing have not proven effective long-term.

It was discussed that Canada Thistle is a very robust and persistent plant with extremely long roots. Cutting and digging methods can control the weed if done consistently, but is not likely to kill the plant long term.

"Natural herbicides", that often contain solutions of acetic acid, can destroy the leaves of the plant but are not likely to be effective in killing the plant. These materials also have a toxicity level.

The Board has recently received a bid to use goats in the pond area, as a mowing or cutting option, at a cost not to exceed \$3,000. A goat herder would be required on site full time. A temporary movable electric fence would be used.

The Board has received an estimate for mowing and weed-whacking in the pond area, at a cost of \$90 per hour for a 2-person crew. For planning purposes, Board has estimated approximately \$800 for each cycle.

Some Owners expressed concern with the use of herbicides, especially near the pond. Potential impacts on fish, birds, pets, and wildlife were noted. Reportedly, usual practice with any herbicide at recommended dosage is to limit exposure to animals a period of time after application. The recommended dosage of Milestone was characterized as “low to very low risk, but not zero risk” to animals. If Milestone is used, there were several suggestions to give proper notice to all residents, including posting a sign at gate and further details on website so individual Owners could decide whether they would want to limit access to area by pets or children. A certified applicator should be used, a permit is required for use near water, and its application should be very selective. Teller County has applicators available that can do this work.

There were no specific concerns expressed about mowing and weed-whacking, although this would really be more of a maintenance activity than a weed mitigation activity. Some owners noted this would be more cost-effective than using goats.

The Board will include input from this meeting, as well as input from the Teller Park Conservation District, Park County CSU Extension Office and the Integrated Weed Management Plan to help finalize the weed mitigation plan for this year.