

President's Report

Nov. 4, 2015

I would like to share what led me to call this special meeting and stress this is **not** a landscaping issue, but a safety issue involving landscaping.

I had heard there were water moccasins in the berms. So last week I called our attorney and Rick, our landscaper.

In my conversation with Rick, I learned his workers were afraid to go into the berms to weed them. One of them had been bitten and taken to the hospital.

Our attorney said we have a major liability because of the berms and could do 3 things: call an exterminator, post signs, and probably would need to get rid the berms. However, would require board approval.

So I started calling board members to make them aware of the situation and that we had a need to meet. I felt it important to have all the directors together meeting face-to-face.

Last Friday Rick, Bill Penney (liaison to the Landscape Committee) and Bob Kelley (co-chair of the Landscape Committee) met to discuss the issue. Rick said the snakes are attracted to the berms because of the creatures that go in there. These include mice, rabbits and frogs.

He also said we could get an exterminator to get rid of them but the snakes would return. Getting an exterminator would be an ongoing situation and a waste of money. To correct the problem, he said we need to get rid of what's attracting the water moccasins to that area: the berms.

He said if something other than grasses were planted on the berms, they would continue to attract creatures and in turn the snakes.

Rick said he could come up with a landscaping plan that would maintain privacy yet create a feeling of openness. He said it would be similar to the hedges and trees across from building 11.

The consensus of all four of us is the berms should be removed. Bob asked me to call John Ruscito, co-chair of the Landscaping Committee, which I did.

Rick gave me a ballpark estimate of \$2,800 to remove the berms. I just got an estimate of \$7,625 to replace the berm area with other plantings, depending on the plants.