

Annual Meeting 2019

Septic Update:

Washington Dept of Health has approved the location and engineering design for our new septic system and has granted us approval to (finally) move forward with construction! The process required us to investigate solutions for 3 different sites, each of which took months to figure out if the next best solution would work. We finally found a location for our drain field that could be approved. We could not begin to receive bids until the preliminary design was then completed. We have received 3 bids that vary greatly in price. Because of this, I've searched for additional qualified contractors, and expect to receive 3-4 more bids. The Septic Task Force is working to make sure that the bids cover all the same items and nothing is left out.

For those that attended the septic talk yesterday, I hope I was able to explain and show in photos, how it was determined that our septic system needed to be replaced, the input we received from DOH and our Engineers to help us make that decision and why it has taken us so long to get to where we are today. I just scratched the surface of all that has taken place during this process. I will try to find time within the next couple of weeks to edit my notes and broadcast them to leaseholders.

Our problematic A side drain field has been put back into operation. After resting for a year, I slowly tested it and once I trusted its operation, I closed the B side field to help it dry out in hopes of saving us money during the anticipated construction of our new septic system. As we have over the past 1 1/2 years, we continue to use only half of our Meadow drain field. If we find out that no construction on the Meadow will take place this year, I will open both fields up for normal operation.

There is currently no reason why we can't go back to normal water use once we know construction will not take place this year. This will be dependent on how our drain fields respond to the demands of our ever increasing population and the precipitation we receive. Much depends on how wet our winter is, because our system only works by evaporations and is designed to work best during dry weather. There is so much I want to explain about how and why everything works, but I can't do it here. I hope my septic talk notes will help to answer some of those questions. Critical water conservation has been lifted to a moderate state. We need to remain under moderate water conservation until further notice. You still need to conserve, because every drop of water that doesn't go to the septic field helps us right now. My role is to manage the system and prevent a catastrophic failure. I will never ask anything of you if I didn't feel it was truly necessary to protect our community.

I realize that this has been a long process, but we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. There is a chance that construction will not be completed until next year. Even if we accepted a bid and hired a contractor tomorrow, contractors are very busy, and there is still a lot of planning to do and lead time on special order materials that needs to take place. We cannot work on the meadow during the rainy season. At the very least, we should be able to get the drain field installed on the upper nature trail. *this fall or winter*

I want to thank this Board as they have been truly amazing to work for. They have provided exceptional support to employees and responding to the needs of this community. I have learned from them just by observing the gentle ways they have dealt with the most difficult of situations. I have much respect for each them!

The employees at DBR are a great team. We all have our individual strengths, and we work extremely well together. Melinda is always my go to person and she helps me out any way that she can. I interrupt her work almost daily and she happily stops whatever she is doing to help me with anything that I need. She supports me in my job much more that I ever have the opportunity to support her.

Then there is Dave. He is amazing and always exceeds my expectations. I tell him often how much I appreciate his efforts and how much I enjoy working beside him. When you get the chance, I ask that you also tell him that you appreciate him. He gives up hours at his other job so he can come here and work extremely hard for us. He is as much a part of this community as you and I are.

Thank you for being such wonderful friends and neighbors. I truly appreciate your words of support. I feel very fortunate that I get to live in and work for such an amazing community.