

Derwood Station Homeowners Association, No. 2
Derwood, MD 20855

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2014—15

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April 2, 2015

Dear Association Member,

As was explained in a flyer distributed to all Association members three years ago, the Association has undertaken a multi-year project to refurbish the Common Areas owned in common by all in our Community. This Common Areas improvement program includes such items as removing trees that are dead, dying, severely damaged, or crowding out more desirable trees on the Common Areas; creating walk pathways linking the Tot Lot area with the streets within the Community; working with homeowners to prune and thin trees adjacent to sidewalks; and monitoring the extensive “wetlands protection work” to be done by State of Maryland contractors immediately adjacent to our Community ... work that will require access by heavy equipment across several of our Common Areas. Such a project is extensive and expensive; the Board approved, and has acted to fund, a 5- year project to do much of this work.

The Board first spent tow years in consultation with tree experts evaluating the trees in all the Common Areas in the HOA, and concluded that a large percentage of these pine trees need to be removed and replaced with other types of trees that will both be pleasing to the eye and provide the needed privacy screening.

This letter from the Board of Directors comes to you specifically because your property abuts the Common Area scheduled to be the fourth Common Area to be refurbished as part of the 5-year program mentioned above.

With the advice of our arborist consultants, and incorporating lessons learned from maintenance experience since the Association was founded, we have identified and marked with yellow “danger” tape several trees in this area being considered for removal. Mostly white spruce, these trees in this area are reaching the end of their expected life expectancy and are beginning to die off; many have now grown so tall that they no longer serve their original purpose of providing an eye-level, two-directional “privacy screen” between the Common Area and the individual properties; and/or are crowding out more desirable trees.

Also, a sub-committee of the Board will be meeting with our Arborists to plan for plantings of a variety of tree species within this Common Area, and will make those plans available to you before they are executed.

Additionally, the Board is considering a separate improvement project to incorporate: planting beds designed to provide rainwater run-off control; planting of additional trees and shrubs; a walking pathway leading to the parkland to the rear of the Common Area; creating a rest area in the trees at the far end of the Common Area.

We want to let you know of both of these plans because they would take place “right in your backyards”, and while they have been discussed at multiple monthly Board Meetings,

reported in the published minutes of those meetings, and discussed at the Annual Meetings since 2011, you may still have “missed” the discussion. We do not want work on it to come as a surprise to you; hence this letter.

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Members of the Board will be available to meet with any Association member interested in obtaining a more detailed explanation of these plans at 1 pm on Saturday, May 2nd; we will meet at half circle on Buena Vista Drive at the top of the Common Area.

For The Board of Directors,

Barry Wolcott, Secretary

BW/sgs

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