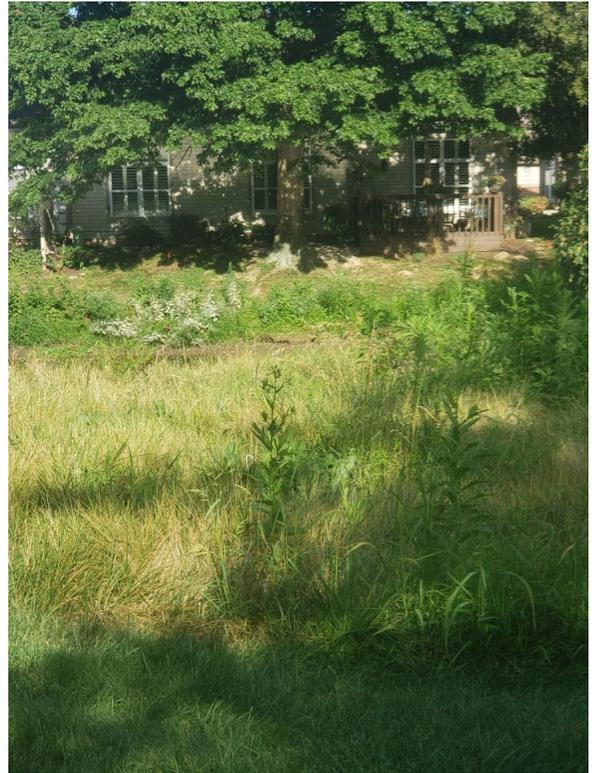


AESTHETICS

Mr. Knust acknowledged that water could backup on what is now pond #4 and recommended the installation of a rain garden to mitigate the unsightly buildup of mud and invasive weeds. WFCOA has already seen the problem of such in the north end of pond #3. Why would WFCOA want such an unsightly mess moved to pond #4? There is a structure under the bridge between pond #4 and #5 that cannot be removed. Sediment could accumulate in the standing water and provide the perfect condition for invasive unsightly vegetation. (Current rains have already left such a buildup and weeds have sprouted in this area.) Such environments are breeding areas for mosquitoes. Without attention and effective landscaping, the area could become as unsightly as has occurred in the north end of pond #3. (Pond #6 at the north inlet is also experiencing significant buildup that given a dry period may well develop the same problem. The area frequently becomes covered with a “scum” that produces a serious offensive odor.)



The newly landscaped areas created in the stream-channel design would need to be conscientiously maintained, especially by regular weeding. Who would do this maintenance? As we know, disagreements between WFCOA and the Moss Creek HOA over maintenance of pond-bank vegetation has been unresolved for several years, resulting in great unsightliness of the ponds especially during the growing season. The stream-channel scenario would compound this conflict several times over.

The issue of aesthetics may be of least interest to those who do not live in close proximity to the ponds. But most complaints about the ponds, typically focus on this issue, even from those who do not live next to the ponds. It is an issue that does eventually translate into fiscal issues. The cost to eradicate algae and vegetation increase as the ponds degrade. Property values are impacted, even if the residence is not directly located on a pond. Stories are available of how the unsightly condition of the north end of pond #3 did curtail the ability of a unit next to that area to be sold.



For those who do not live close by, it is critical to note that not only can the ponds be an eye-sore, but the odor coming from the algae can be quite offensive and can produce noxious allergens. The muddy shallow weed patches become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. It is truly more than just an issue of being “unattractive”.

Although Pond 3 is primarily visible to the residents who live on its banks, Pond 4 is iconic of the whole neighborhood. Eliminating it as a pond would especially have an adverse effect on the image of the total community. The Davey’s report even suggested ideas to make the ponds more inviting to all residents, such as adding a couple of benches. A recent Bent Tree resident even suggested that a bench would be a nice addition beside pond #4 to allow older residents to rest on their walks. The ponds are available to all WFCOA residents and suggestions as to how to make them more welcoming would be appreciated.

Some WFCOA residents indicate they do not avail themselves to the ponds, but it is amazing how many area neighbors walk with their children and/or dogs to enjoy the water and wildlife. The people who enjoy the area are not limited to those who live



adjacent to the ponds. There is a considerable traffic of walkers and bikers that come from the outlying neighborhoods. In addition to the essential function of providing drainage for the watershed, the ponds are a notable asset to the overall neighborhood. Many people recognize Winslow Farms as the community “with the ponds”.

It is essential to note without attention, the ponds will continue to degrade. Sediment buildup will continue to create more shallow ponds which, in turn:

- Decreases the ability of the waterway to accommodate flooding.
- Creates the optimum environment for the growth of algae, invasive plants, and weeds.
- Increases on-going maintenance costs for algae abatement, weed control and general repairs to related structures.
- Becomes breeding areas for mosquitoes and noxious allergens.
- Produces fish kill and inhibits the fish population which are needed to maintain good water quality.
- Prevents recirculating the water throughout the waterway, which in turn, leads to more sediment build-up.
- Erosion will expand to continue to threaten property.
- As liners become exposed to sunlight along the shoreline

they are graduating giving away. There are obvious tears and ripped liners. Loosing liner integrity will permit water leakage, further decreasing the water level and exacerbating the problems. This also creates access for burrowing wildlife such as turtles and muskrats that further weaken the shoreline and the liners.

- Contributes to the appearance of disrepair and neglect to the overall community which, in turn, unconsciously promotes further disrepair.
- Negatively impacts property values.