

Some residents have expressed an interest in the ongoing saga of the Owen Front Entrance project.

As you are aware, we have had two more trees fall in the last big windstorm. We had these removed as well as several others that were in danger of falling. Some residents have asked why we don't simply remove all the trees in the front – there are two major reasons. First is that they provide significant noise abatement for the residents along Owen Road. Several residents have asked that they not be removed. Also, the cost of removing all the trees would be very high. I guess it is a matter of opinion as to whether it would look better than the current situation with all the trees removed. As I pointed out at the Annual Meeting, these trees were planted incorrectly 25 or so years ago. The remaining pines appear stable but there is no guarantee. Also removing the trees will put additional pressure on the residents along Owen Road who have to maintain their fences – an expense the rest of sub residents do not have to bear.

The front rehabilitation project, approved by the Board of Directors did not originally consider the falling pine trees. We have made some significant progress. What the project did consist of is:

Fall 2024 work:

- Remove the dead / dying trees along the fence line. Done
- Spraying all the weeds to kill them. Done
- Grinding all the tree stumps. Done
- Cleaning up the area of all debris. (To be done by the end of the week)
- Planting 4 – 5 ft arborvitae. (Planting today and tomorrow)
- Cut a new border along the front of the planting beds. (Moved to next spring)

Spring 2025 work

- Complete anything postponed from last fall due to weather, etc.
- Check weed situation, respray if necessary
- Clean any remaining debris
- Add 3 inches of hardwood mulch
- Add additional weed control (Preen or equivalent)
- Repair any damage to grass areas

Envisioned in this plan, the arborvitae are to be the background to the planting area. We won't continue with replacing the fallen pine trees with new trees as was done in the past. The arborvitae will grow to 30 ft and form a nice background. In coming years, we can plant individual flowering plants and bushes to fill in as necessary.

After all work is complete, we will continue maintenance of the front area, either with volunteers or by hiring the work out. It makes no sense to go through all this effort and expense and not maintain the site.

Any question / comments, please advise

Ed Bernice

810 772 6382