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Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 10:47 AM

To: Barque Hill Association

Subject: Barque Hill Association - Quarterly update from your Board

Hello Neighbors,

Welcome home! We hope you and yours all have had a wonderful summer both here and away. Your board is gearing up for a busy fall as well as are in final preparations for our Annual Picnic, **Saturday, September 18th from 1 -5 pm at Shipyard Park**. The pre-Picnic "Clean Up Shipyard Park Day" will be held Saturday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m. if you would like to help out in preparation for the big day. Look for the flyer in your mailbox.

Items of interest:

Dues:

Over half of our households have already paid their dues to date - thanks to all of you that have done so and if you have not, please remember to add us into your list of To-Do's. Taxes are coming up and one of the cornerstone propositions of the Association is paying the property tax on our shared common lands. Having all this green space not only makes our neighborhood a terrific place to live but also helps us retain greater long-term property values and curb appeal. In this difficult economic climate, the small annual investment we make collectively to increase the odds of us each selling our property at a premium when that time comes seems like a particularly wise one.

Shipyard Park:

Barque Hill Community Boating: Speaking of green space, we welcome your input at the picnic next week on ways we can take better advantage of one of the greatest assets we have in Shipyard Park. Your Board has been brainstorming how to better leverage the asset it represents including creation of a Community Canoe/Kayak program. This would feature a couple of canoes and kayaks on loan for general neighborhood use down at the ramp. If you are interested in more information, wish to offer your ideas or have an underused canoe or kayak that you would love to share with your neighbors on a first-come/first-served, use at your own risk basis, speak to either Kevin Bedford or Eric Thorbahn next week.

Book it, Danno: John Garvey, our Webmaster is working on creating a calendar on our website which will allow you to book Shipyard Park in advance for birthday parties, family events or that random pickup game of softball. This is your park and you feel free to use it to its potential as often as you wish... We only ask that you leave it as clean as you find it.

Committee updates:

Beautification - Thank you to Jessie Chai for her efforts in keeping both entrances to the neighborhood attractive and green. Kelly Ashley will be assisting Jessie on future activities.

Grounds - Two paths have been cleared and widened - The B2B Trail and Till Rock to Barque Hill Common. Three cleanups have already been done. At SYP the batting cage has been cleaned up and the sides of the road to the water have been mowed. Clean up Committee will decide on Sept 11 what to do with the wood left from previous cleanup sessions. Bonfires R Us anyone? Speak to Bob Ashley if the Paul Bunyan in you yearns for some time in the woods.

Social - The next Barque Hill Social will be held at Tinkers Son Restaurant in Norwell Center, probably early in November. Date has yet to be determined, but some time after Halloween and before Thanksgiving. Speak to Anne Merna or Rosemary if you have any other suggestions. We raised the roof down at Tinks in June and look forward to more of the same to kick off the holiday season in fine Barque Hill fashion.

Other tid-bits and notes:

Verizon FIOS: 85% of the pole work has been completed and the Verizon project manager estimates work will be completed by the holidays. If you have any interest in getting this service, let one of us know. We're working with Verizon to try and create a Barque Hill Association discounted plan that would confer additional savings on those households participating should we get a great enough number to enroll in the service.

Barque Hill Median / Till Rock entrance project: Over the summer, the Board solicited several bids from contract landscapers who calculated that over \$3000 in bark mulch would be needed to mulch areas in need (!) but also noted that if dirt and seed is getting washed away by rain and damaged so heavily in the wintertime by snowplows so would any bark mulch. So, we are now working on a Plan B to approach various nurseries to solicit them to present a plan or recommendations as to what to do. Ideas have been raised including:

- Allowing the land to return to its natural state, retaining pine needle and natural leaf cover in certain areas which over time would build up the soils
- Introduce selective planting of hosta and rhododendrons or hardy ground cover to mitigate the erosion. These plants could be donated by Membership when they split their yard plantings or purchased over time in a programmatic approach to building up our entranceways.
- Installing whiskey barrels with plants or seasonal flowers
- Planting shrubbery or other natural, low maintenance evergreens or native plants that are more salt-tolerant with low-water requirements
- Re-seed with native grasses that would not need maintenance and self propagates.
- Clearing all the trees and building a skate board park (just kidding - gotcha!)

If you have any ideas or wish to help us with this important decision, Bob Ashley has offered to lead the charge with Hugh Spurway, Jessie Chai, Kelly Ashley and Jeff Lundgren. See one of us next week or send us your thoughts in a note.

Scoop Fido's poop: We love dogs! We do not love doggie-do so much. Please make sure you - and yours who may be out walking Fido - are cleaning up after your beloved canine. If the baggie approach is not your idea of a good time, how about a little shovel and a solid overhand deep into the woods? It will break down naturally there much faster than in the treads of our sneakers or on already stressed-out lawns.

Twenty is plenty: School is back in session and it is wonderful to hear the neighborhood coming back to life with all those kids saddling up every day to go to school. Please remember them as you roar up the street in hot pursuit of your daily bread. The extra minute it takes to clear the neighborhood may really no kidding save someone's life today. Please drive with care.

Hope to see you at the picnic, our next social or just toodlin' around the 'Hood. Let any one of us know what you are thinking or what you need, anytime. We are listening.

As always,
Your Board - working for you.