

**BETZ LANDING**  
**HOME OWNER'S ASSOCIATION**  
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December 13, 2008

## **HERBICIDE SPRAYING ACCIDENT**

On December 7, 2008, Mr. Paul Clarke and Ms Rebecca Wilson, from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, briefed the Betz landing Board of Directors concerning an herbicide spraying accident that took place on Bush Mill Stream. In the summer of 2008, members of the Department of Conservation, responsible for Bush Mill Stream Preserve, discovered Phragmites, a tall non native invasive grass, growing in the Bush Mill Preserve and in a small area on Betz Landing. They developed a plan to spray the infected areas with ECOMAZAPR 2 SL, an EPA approved herbicide previously used successfully on Dameron Marsh. The Department asked for and received permission from Betz Landing home owners, whose property they wanted to spray. After receiving permission from the land owners, they completed planning to spray the infected area. On September 21, 2008 a helicopter sprayed the approved herbicide. Unfortunately, the contractor doing the spraying made a mistake and inadvertently sprayed "approximately 6 acres of un-infested marsh." Some of the un-infested area accidentally sprayed was Betz Landing property.

The herbicide used is approved by the EPA and reportedly does not "affect wildlife, people or water quality." Phragmites is a very invasive grass that would choke Bush Mill Stream and eliminate the marsh grasses that support wildlife. That said, some of the Board members questioned the validity of spraying with a helicopter over a residential area, particularly when the herbicide label is replete with precautionary statements and hazard warnings. A negative result of the spraying will be that "marsh grasses will not green up next year and may require a second growing season." The Department of Conservation will monitor the progress of marsh growth and will remain in close contact with Betz Landing property owners.

The bottom line is that a mistake was made, and that the Department of Conservation has accepted responsibility for that mistake. They will keep us informed of study results and our communications lines are open. At a minimum, we will have the Department of Conservation brief the Betz Landing Homeowners Association at our next annual meeting. If we hear any news that needs action, we will contact property owners immediately.

### **Use of Golf Carts in Betz Landing**

Members of the Association voted to allow the use of golf carts on Betz Landing property and the Board authorized the preparation of a formal request to the County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Phil Landry will prepare the formal request. Thanks for your input.

### **Boat Storage Area**

The boat storage area is getting crowded and I ask your help in keeping the area clean. The area is designed to store boats and trailers and is not intended to be a refuge for boats and trailers that have outlived their usefulness. Boats that remain uncovered and fill with water/debris represent a health hazard to all of us. Please be considerate of your neighbors and remove trash and no longer serviceable equipment from the area. Thank you.

### **Rest Rooms**

The rest rooms have been closed and winterized for the season. They will reopen after the danger of a hard freeze is past. We will send out the exact date that the combinations are changed for the boat storage area and rest rooms in the Spring newsletter.

### **Property for Sale**

In order to list property for sale in this newsletter, as requested at the annual meeting, the board must first receive notification that the property is for sale. If you want your property listed in the newsletter, please let me know and it will be posted. Nancy Hampton has also agreed to post for sale notices on the Betz Landing web site.

### **Interior Lot Purchase**

At the annual meeting it was suggested that the Association look into the purchase of land. The land could be used to build a club house/ serve ancillary functions. Although it appears to be cost prohibitive for the Association to purchase a lot and build in one move, the purchase of an interior lot appears to be an option worth considering. Prices are down and this could be the best time to purchase. If an owner is interested in selling an interior lot directly to the Association, the Board has expressed interest to consider a purchase.

### **New Officers of the Board of Directors**

President – **John Mrzyglod**

Vice President - **Nancy Hampton**

Treasurer- **John Henbest**

Maintenance Director- **John Whiteside**

Secretary- **Phil Landry**

Architectural Committee Chair – **Don Phillips**

There were three new members elected at the Annual meeting in October – Michael Goodwin, Susan O'Bier, and Phil Landry

Bill Hallman was elected to the Architectural Committee  
Anne Raikes and Mark Shaughnessy are members of the Nominating  
Committee for 2009

We could not get a volunteer for Social Director. If interested, please contact  
me or any Board member.

Attached at the end of the newsletter is the updated list of the 2008-2009  
Board of Directors members

### **No Wake Signs**

The application for approval to erect the no wake signs on the Osprey nest  
pilings at the mouth of Bush Mill Stream and Crabbe Mill Stream will be  
forwarded next week. The supporting letter will include an endorsement from  
the Department of Conservation. Apologize for the delay in getting this out but I  
ran into unexpected delays.

### **No Sign Policy**

I want to keep this simple. Association rules designate Betz Landing as a  
sign free area. This means no for sale signs and no political signs. Builder  
permits, as required by law, are OK. While this issue is minor in nature and  
barely worth mentioning, it is important to note that the removal of signs by  
individuals, other than the property owner who put up the sign, is a criminal act.  
Nancy Hampton, as head of the Rules Enforcement Group, is responsible for  
notification of members of rule violations. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Schedule**

The next meetings of the Board of Directors are scheduled for 8 March and 7  
June. The board meetings are held at the Northumberland Public Library at  
1:00PM. The date for the July 4<sup>th</sup> get together, the September Board meeting  
and the annual meeting will be developed at the 8 March meeting.

### **Newsletter Mailing Preferences**

In the last couple of newsletters, we gave you the option of receiving the  
newsletter by email. If you are interested, just let me know at  
[tjmrzyglod@hughes.net](mailto:tjmrzyglod@hughes.net). We will continue to mail annual dues notices and  
election ballots.

**Sincerely,**

**John E Mrzyglod  
President**

