

ACA BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: meeting called to order 7:00 PM

March 11, 2015

Present: Norman McDonald (P), Jimmy Hahn (1VP), Katherine Bourne (T), Sharon Sanders (S), Bob Veitch, Glenn Sweatman, Ted Hucks, and Jason Simmons

Secretary – Minutes

(Last Board Meeting): Meeting minutes from the November 26, 2014 Board meeting were read by Sharon Sanders. Minutes were approved as read, and a motion was made to accept and 2nd. The motion was carried and accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Checking account contained \$31,447.93. Savings account had \$7,528.48. Currently 44% of assessments were paid for the year. The Treasurer's report was approved and accepted by the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Simmons Lawsuit – Norm received a letter from Dorchester County announcing that Mr. Simmons is suing to have the sign removed. Norman went on to bring those up to speed on the issue of Mr. Simmons purchasing a parcel of land (1/6 acre) at a tax sale at the entrance of Brookshire. Sitting on the land is the Brookshire sign. The lawsuit was assigned case # 43 out of 43 and scheduled to be heard on March 23, 2015. Being that Mr. Simmons had not suffered any damages, the letter basically said there was no need for Norman to appear.
2. Storm Water Drainage Progress – There were two projects going on -
 - (a) Scottswood and Lewisfield: work is completed, and a contract was awarded to Eagle Construction to pave the road where it was dug up – weather permitting.
 - (b) Old Dominion and Botany Bay Court: the county has not gotten to that yet.
3. Sterling Forest entrance lattice work repairs: weather is holding up the progress.
4. Speed Bumps: The County rescinded their offer to have the association get petitions and signatures of residents because there's no longer funding to support the project. It was mentioned that Botany Bay would like another speed bump and one is needed on Old Dominion. Jimmy mentioned the need for speed bumps on the entrance side of Archdale Blvd. Norman felt the Dorchester County Sheriffs parked on the islands are the biggest deterrents. It was also mentioned the officers were asked that tickets be issued, versus warnings, to stress the severity of the issue.
5. Knightsbridge Pond – There was an article in the newspaper about a pond belonging to the Beach Co. It was determined that that pond issue should not be equated to the Archdale pond issue for two reasons: (1) it was in a different county; and (2) it was a decorative pond - not a storm water pond.

There has been some conversation with the owner of the property, with the question being, how did it come to be in his possession? It was bought at a tax sale. Who did it belong to before that? It was owned by Dorchester County who sold it by mistake to the current owner. Norm had a chance to speak with the Director of Dorchester County Public Works who essentially said “there’s nothing wrong with the pond – water’s coming in and water’s going out – what more do you want? It’s storm water drainage, doing storm water drainage stuff. That’s all we are required to do.” At face value, let’s say that’s true...one of the other Dorchester County officials showed where all this water comes into the pond and in the process of trying to leave at the one exit point, it carries sediment and drops it. Current estimate is it would take around \$10,000 to dig it all out of there to make it flow better.

We have two issues to resolve:

(a) Proper Drainage: the drainage ditches that come into the pond and flood; and

(b) Beautification – It’s not the County or State’s responsibility; nobody does beautification of ponds- there’s no money for it. The county may dredge it to improve drainage, but will not get involved in beautification. It has become incumbent upon the owner, on a **voluntary** basis, because there is no code requirement that if you own a pond it has to be beautiful.

The chain of events is... when Knightsbridge was being built in Sterling Forest, at that time, developers donated retention ponds and streets to the county. The counties were responsible for keeping roads maintained, but not anymore. That practice is no longer allowed.

There are new subdivisions in Dorchester County being built where the contractor said donate, and the County rejected it. That means the HOA is responsible for road maintenance, and there would be a sign saying “End County Road Maintenance”.

Norman had Councilman Bailey talk with the Auditor whose question was, which came from Public Works, – Why did Archdale Civic Association let that land go to a tax sale? The answer is – it was never ours.

Jimmy mentioned a company that maintains ponds and the expense of it, but Norman said we could not do it – not unless we own it.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Katherine mentioned receiving an “Open Land Trust Report” where they mentioned down trees, vandalism, spray paint graffiti, and a fallen oak tree at the Plantation that need addressing. Norman said the report is sent every year, and if it’s on us, we take care of it. The folks of the Open Land Trust come in and, supposedly, maintain the property too.

2. Proposed 2015 Budget: Katherine used the Approved 2014 Budget as a guide to discuss the changes going forward in 2015. She used a comparison of what was actually collected from previous years to get a more realistic forecast of what we should expect for each month. The 2015 Proposed Budget was approved for presentation at the next General Meeting.
3. Jason had questions about who we were using for the website hosting (Netwerx Solutions). This led to the question of whether Archdale would set up a system for online payment processing. Jason mentioned the additional expense to set it up. It was determined that additional costs would be offset by whomever is making the payment. Norman said this discussion is just an overview. We are not there yet, however it is a matter that does not have to be brought before the General Meeting to vote on, as it is an in-house decision.
4. Archdale Entrance Sign Damage: It has been a challenge finding proper lighting – the old one is no longer made. Norm later that day sent an email indicating that he'd found the light online. It was determined that the boxwoods will have to go as there is no replacement at their size. It was discussed placing boulders, railroad rails with anchor chain, and/or other items, to protect the sign. Jimmy knows someone who could do a rendering of a new look to the entrance and give us a free estimate. That idea was welcomed. Ultimately, the Board will propose some ideas for the front entrance at the General Meeting for approval.
5. Tax Form 990: Kathleen needed a list of the 2014 Officers and the amount of hours per week on average was devoted to the position for the Tax Form 990. It was determined that Kathleen would look online under the "Meeting Minutes Section" from the Board or General meetings to get a list of the names. Time would be determined by applying at least 2 hours per quarter, and at least 1 hour in addition, per month, for the betterment of Archdale. There was no record of a prior filing. It should be filed each year. We are going to file this year like they have always been filed.
6. Debt Collections: Total delinquent for 2013 and before is \$75,802.13 – we received \$350.00 in donations. Kathleen will forward delinquencies to Atty. Hadden for collection.
7. Lt. Barnhill will speak at our next General Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm – motion 2nd and carried

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: JUNE 10, 2015