

Aspenhof trustees meeting,

April 18, 2015, 10 a.m., at Jim Reddy's cabin

Attending: Reddy, Garry Stockmann, Kurt Andrew, Carol Neuwirth, Ray Jordan, Bob Eade, Mark Bremehr, Karel Smith. Absent: Vicki Adrian

Discussions

Historical records/documentation – Reddy noted problems researching past events on our web site. Consensus was that board work closer with Dan Landiss, web site volunteer administrator, to keep documents associated with Aspenhof trustee assignments current.

Roadside clearing – Stockmann said some test spraying done last year by Jim Marschel of Dry Fork Landscaping. Priority is keeping undergrowth off the road. Is a comprehensive cutting worth the expense, in as much as the vegetation grows back annually? Roads budget now \$20,000 plus a year. Extra trimming could add as much as \$6,000 a year. Could we do this on volunteer basis? Rent a chipper? Emphasis should be on entry road, cedars on Alta. Start with evaluation of roads. Garry, Kurt, Bob and Mark on subcommittee to evaluate.

Snow plowing – Cost is uncertain. Smith noted that board spent \$2,200 in 2013-14 for plowing. A Dec. 12, 2014 plowing cost \$200. Board decided plowing should be authorized after at least 4 inches of snow measured locally. Plowing will include the entrance road, loop road around the big lake and the hill going up Innsbrook.

Communications on non-email owners – Smith said only about eight or nine owners don't have either email or Google Group access. Board decided that to cut expenses, Announcer would be sent by email, but assessments, and budgets will continue to be sent via U.S. mail.

Grenoble dam breach – Andrew said the likely cause of the break was a blocked culvert. He said debris collects in front of tubes. We need to pay more attention to that. We will seek advice from the guy who manages lakes at Innsbrook Resort. A meeting is planned on Monday. We need to consider moving the spillway to other end of dam away from culverts.

Stolen stuff – Bremehr, noting a Google Group report of a cabin owner having firewood taken from his lot without permission, said our best defense against these occurrences is to be vigilant in checking all cars for hangtags.

Reports

Financial status and outlook for 2015 – Smith reported the treasury is in good shape, with \$105,385 in the emergency fund (two CDs and a money market account). She said the electricity fee for new lights at the gate would be \$48 per mo. She said she had completed partial release of some liens that have been paid. Cabin 91 is two years behind in its assessments.

Financial records review – Andrew said his committee’s review of finances looked at two forms of audit -- internal or external. He and Smith proposed internal. It would use a checklist that would be made available to cabin owners. They suggested the audit be done biannually or when treasurer turns. Goal is to do before next owners meeting. Smith said cabin 132 is closing May 15. New owners are the Haddoxes. She also noted that the board donated \$100 to DeSmet High for use of its auditorium for the spring owners meeting.

Aspenhof Institute – Eade said two individuals had proposed a series of educational/cultural programs on Saturdays. They want to work with committee on topics. The board said Bob could give them the go-ahead as long as there would be no costs to Aspenhof.

New road and gate – Eade said MoDot hasn’t released the contractor who did work on the entrance road yet. The department is scheduled to inspect the grass in May. He said CREC had been advised of new light poles flaking and appearing out of plumb. They will recheck in a couple of months and recoat poles. They also will recheck backfill on trench that carries the electrical lines. Bob said Aspenhof could be restricted in placing boulders on the highway side of our entrance road because there is a question of who owns that property, MoDot or Aspenhof. He said there would be an electrical box at the new gate in case we want another connection. Eade recommends putting steel pole there to protect the box. He said it would take time to determine stability of the new roadbed. We’ll have to wait and see how it settles. Hubie Kluesner can fill in cracks as needed. ... Bob said the mailbox Kluesner wants to move to near our entrance would be on MoDot property, not ours. Another easement issue involving construction of a culvert on Aspenhof property is a moot point because the culvert was installed before the easement was granted. ... There’s no word on our latest tree grant application. Board members questioned whether we should contact a landscape arborist for advice on the entrance road. Reddy said advice is free. ... Bob says he has paint and rollers, and is ready go to work on a center stripe on the entrance road. He asked for volunteers. ... Trustees discussed possible designs of a new Aspenhof sign. Should it fasten to the gate? Be vertical on a post? Andrew has bids on sign lettering. He will email final design to trustees. One design features lettering and an aspen leaf inside a triangle. Should we paint gate? That will be determined. ... Eade noted that it’s time to re-stain benches and picnic tables. Cedar tones for benches. Red for tables. ... Gate completion lottery is still under way with 4-5 entrants in the running. Winner will be awarded bottles of Missouri win.

Nominating committee – Jordan, Neuwirth and Stockmann will serve on the election committee charged with finding candidates to run for positions on the board. One to three positions could be open.

Adjourned at 1:20 p.m. (3 hours, 20 minutes. Whew!)

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Jordan