

# **ASPENHOF SPRING CABIN OWNERS MEETING**

## **THURSDAY, MARCH 12, AT DESMET HIGH AUDITORIUM**

TRUSTEES ATTENDING: Kurt Andrew, Vicki Adrian, Mark Bremehr, Bob Eade, Ray Jordan, Carol Neuwirth, Jim Reddy, Karel Smith. (Garry Stockmann absent)

Chairman Reddy opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. He introduced the trustees, then welcomed new cabin owners, Amelia and Matt Morrison (#97) and Mary Fran and Tony Jurkovich (#97). Jim noted that the purple martin houses were back up at the lake and awaiting our mosquito-eating feathered friends to take up residence again this spring. He then asked that minutes from our summer/fall meeting, which are posted on the Aspenhof web site, be approved by voice vote. The assembly of about 100 approved.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

TREASURY, Smith: Karel stated that assessments had been received from all but one of the 151 cabins. She noted receipt of one large late fee, \$2,487, from one cabin that had been cleared of liens and sold. She said she plans to file a lien against another cabin in April. Karel pointed out a discrepancy in the emergency fund as listed on the printout distributed at the meeting. She said the total should be \$92,988.89 according to bank statements, not \$100,120 according to the spreadsheet. A questioner from the audience asked why the \$7,000-plus difference in the two figures. Karel said she was unable to explain the difference but would investigate and send out an email on the Google Group. Another question from the audience concerned the possibility of paying assessments by electronic funds transfer. She said she would check on it. A final question dealt with recouping more revenue from owners who fall seriously behind in their assessments. Karel said the liens we file against such owners include not only money to cover past assessments, but also late fees and attorney fees.

SECURITY, Bremehr: Mark declared 2014 “a pretty good year, security-wise.” He said no incidents had been reported. Noting the distribution of 2015 hang tags earlier in the evening, he urged owners to continue displaying them in their cars at all times. Hang tags, he said, are “the cheapest security system” we could have and works when all participate. New gate keys will be distributed next year, he said. Mark deferred questions on the new gate and additional dumpster for later in meeting.

COMMON GROUNDS, Eade: Bob began by acknowledging the work of former trustees who helped make Aspenhof the nice place it is. He thanked those owners who make an extra effort to keep the common grounds litter-free. Bob said work is underway on a new hiking trail that would follow the power lines up from the big lake to Matterhorn. He cautioned, however, that the new trail would not be an easy hike. He said he hopes to extend the trail down Sun Valley in the future. Addressing the boat area, Bob said he was “unhappy with the storage area.” He said he would like to re-arrange it by placing seldom-used boats on racks farther away from the lake, thus allowing easier access for

the frequent sailors. Bob noted that 12 volunteers and Hubie Kluesner participated in the annual raising of the purple martin houses on March 7. He said he was confident the birds would make themselves at home and feast on mosquitoes. "If the martins do their job, we won't have to worry," he said. Bob asked owners to be on the look-out for Russian olive, an invasive plant that he believes is brought into Aspenhof on the tires of power company trucks. Spray it with Roundup, he advised. Ditto for poison ivy. Bob reported that Aspenhof had made the first cut for another \$1,000 tree grant from the power companies. The butterfly garden, he said, continues to progress. He asked Dolly and Paul Schroeder, who donated their time and money for the garden, for an update. Dolly said seeds of plants that butterflies like to eat had been sown and the next phase is allowing the roots to develop. "By next year, we should have a butterfly garden," she said. On a final note, Bob reminded owners of our goose policy, which strives to prevent geese from nesting (and thus defecating) around our lakes. When nests are found, eggs are oiled to make them infertile. In accordance with federal rules involving endangered species, this has to be documented. Benjamin Hulsey and Coleen Howell have volunteered for this assignment.

LAKES, Andrew: Kurt announced that Coleen Howell will head up the annual beach cleanup on May 2 (9<sup>th</sup> is rainout date). Volunteers are welcome. Also needed: a new chairman of the annual fishing derby as Suzanne Bremehr is stepping down. Kurt said Jim Reddy and family will continue monitoring fish quality, and they will expand their efforts to all lakes. Algae treatments are due to begin soon, and mowing of the dam area (big lake) will commence afterward. Kurt said he is checking on other chemicals that might be available to control the no-see-ums at the beach. Reddy interjected with a call for volunteers to report early evidence of the pests. Kurt mentioned a natural ingredient product called "No-no-see-ums" that owners might want to consider as a substitute for DEET as a mosquito repellent. He closed by noting the United States flag at the lake is tangled and needs to be fixed or replaced. An owner responded from the audience that Cuivre River Electric Co-op is on top of the problem and will use one of its bucket trucks to replace the flag.

PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS, Neuwirth: Carol reported that four cabins owners have filed for construction permits. She noted that forms are available on the Google Group. A question from the audience led to a discussion on whether permits are needed to build a shed. Carol said no, providing the shed is directly under the cabin. Another person noted that permits are also needed from Warren County for shed construction, or anything that will change the "foot print" of the cabin.

ROADS, Reddy (subbing for Stockmann): Jim acknowledged the Aspenhof policy of snow-plowing roads, but explained that recent failure to do so had more to do with procedure than direction. He said there are no established plans or parameters governing the process. Jim Marschel, our roads maintenance man, is not on a retainer and plows only when requested, Reddy said. He added that trustees will discuss the board's policy at the next meeting. Reddy said road repair work will begin soon, with priority given to North and South Alta. Some culvert and pipe work might also be needed there. He urged

owners to call Garry Stockmann when they see a road problem. Clearing vegetation along the roadways is another topic the board will take up at its next meeting, he said. A questioner asked why golf carts aren't allowed at Aspenhof. Reddy said its been a long-standing policy and probably resulted from safety concerns.

REGATTA, Adrian: This year's dates will be Sept. 5 and 6, Vicki said. She listed many of the activities that will take place during the annual Labor Day Weekend festival and pleaded for volunteers to sign up for the many tasks associated with it.

## OLD BUSINESS

HIGHWAY 47 PROJECT, Eade: Bob noted that MoDOT has completed its portion of the project and we are awaiting warm weather for Hubie Kluesner to begin installing the gate at the new entrance. After Kluesner finishes his work, which also includes building stacking lanes to either side of the entrance road, Cuivre River will install light poles at the highway entrance and gate. Bob said we will be using the old gate, which swings in with hinges on the highway side. Estimated completion date is May, Bob said. He also noted that boulders will extend our boundary protection. "We'll make it as secure as we can." Reinstallation of the gate and associated work will cost more than the \$6000 MoDOT gave us, Bob said. Some owners complained that the entrance off the highway doesn't seem to have enough space for two lanes, especially for drivers from turning into Aspenhof as an exiting car waits to leave. Bob said the road was built according to specs from the federal and state governments and this was all they would allow. He noted that county officials had no reports of any accidents there since the work was completed, but we still need to be cautious. Another owner suggested the problem could be reduced by painting a lane divider down the middle of the entrance ramp. Bob told another questioner that MoDOT planned no more landscape work. He did add that MoDOT will give us five seedlings for each tree it had uprooted. The catch is, we have to plant the seedlings. Bob said the board has ruled out reusing the old Aspenhof sign. No design nor location for a new sign has been determined.

DUMPSTER, Bremehr: Mark began by urging owners always to try to place their refuse in the back of the dumpster for more efficient use of space. He said the annual extra dumpster weekends would be April 4 and 11. A construction dumpster, capable of holding 30 yards of waste, will be available next to the regular dumpster. The 30-yarder can be used to dispose of construction materials not allowed in the regular dumpster. No appliances, electronics or batteries, however. Mark mentioned a couple of recycling businesses on Highway 47 that might be willing to buy your old appliances.

## CLOSING

Reddy thanked Teresa Wetzel and David Kroger, recent members of the board, for their service and Father Durso for helping arrange the use of the DeSmet Auditorium. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

In a post-adjournment meeting, trustees approved by voice vote a fireworks display over the Fourth of July weekend, subject to safety requirements and weather.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Jordan, secretary