

SPRING CABIN OWNERS MEETING
March 21, 2016, at DeSmet High School

Trustees attending: Kurt Andrew, Vicki Adrian, Mark Bremehr, Matt Doell, Kim Dolson, Maureen Donlin, Ray Jordan, Karel Smith, Garry Stockmann, Susan Seymour Westcott.

Trustee chairman Matt Doell called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and welcomed owners. A call to approve minutes from the September owners meeting, which are available on the Aspenhof Google Group, was set aside. Committee reports followed:

Treasury, Karel Smith: Smith, who has sold her cabin and resigned from the board, gave her final report as Treasurer. Copies of the operating budget were made available in advance. Smith noted that Aspenhof had no federal or state taxes for 2015 because bank accounts had earned less than \$100 in interest. Assessments paid in full have been received from 149 owners. One owner has made partial payment and another (cabin 91) is in arrears. She said she has filed a lien with Warren County for 91's back assessments. A questioner in the audience asked why the budget sheet showed a \$30,000 disbursement to the emergency fund (also referred to as the reserve fund) in 2014-15 yet no corresponding increase in the fund balance. The reserve fund showed a balance of \$106,051 as of March 2016. Smith said she was unable to answer the question but would examine her records and send out an explanation via the Google Group. (In a subsequent email the following day, Smith said the Board had previously agreed to transfer money out of the checking account into a money market account. "By doing this, we have available cash without having to cash in CDs." The budget sheet showed a \$30,000 increase in the money market balance.)

Security, Bremehr: Mark outlined the policy for distributing new keys and hang tags, and noted that the lock on the entrance gate would change at noon on June 4. He reminded owners that the lock will not release the key until the lock and shaft are engaged. He asked that lubricants not be used on the lock. Mark noted a recent report of someone taking rocks from the side of Aspenhof's entrance road. He asked owners to report any sightings to him and he will relay our concerns to the Warren County Sheriff's Department. A questioner asked whether the Board has considered installing an electronic gate. Mark said the Board has discussed this possibility numerous times but has concluded that several drawbacks – including frequent loss of power in the area – would make such a system impractical.

Common grounds, Westcott: Susan, who is taking over this assignment from Bob Eade, said her first order of business will be to get the purple martin houses up for the summer. Next, she plans to inventory the boats and make sure fees are up to date. Susan promised to investigate the possibility of adding new hiking trails. She invited those interested to email her with their ideas.

Lakes, Andrew: Kurt announced that the Board has approved a contract with a new vendor, Aquatic Guide, for lake vegetation control. The Board also approved a contract with the same company to perform a lake depth profile for use in a possible future dredging project. He said product has been ordered for midge control. Volunteers will be needed for the annual Beach Cleanup Day and Fishing Rodeo, as well as for planting and watering flowers at the beach this summer.

A questioner asked whether stocking more grass carp was planned. Kurt said his understanding is that grass carp are most effective at least two years after stocking. Our last stocking of those fish was four years ago, he said. It's possible more could be ordered later, but the current objective is to obtain a balance of sizes and species. Another questioner asked about stocking more catfish. Kurt said none is planned to allow more growth among the current crop.

Adrian, permits/inspections: Vicki said inspections are underway on 100 cabins this spring as Trustees play catch-up. No inspections were done last year. She said the objective is to ensure a safe environment and maintain property values. A reminder: Permits are required when the footprint of a cabin changes. A questioner asked what the time frame is for addressing inspection problems. Typically, Vicki said, 30-60 days are allowed for owners to bring cabins up to standard. She reminded owners that an extra dumpster will be available April 22-29 for spring cleanups.

Roads, Stockmann: Garry said Mother Nature has been good to Aspenhof roads this year. Work has begun on clearing vegetation from intersections. Assessment is underway on repairs needed on Alta. Three culverts are due to be replaced. Please report poor road conditions. Question: Who is responsible for culvert maintenance at the edge of a driveway? Answer: Have to look at it. Other problem areas reported: Clogged culvert near cabin 39 and a berm near the bulletin board. Question: Should cabin owners be contacted before vegetation is cut on their property? Garry said safety issues along the roadways are the first consideration in trimming. Property rights also will be considered.

Regatta, Dolson: Kim is looking for volunteers to help pull off the annual extravaganza. She said she is open to ideas for new activities. Her budget this year will be similar to those of the past two years. She doesn't foresee any budget issues.

Old Business

* Doell thanked former Trustee Bob Eade for his work on the new entrance, gate and landscape.

* Bremehr noted the weekend dates for the extra dumpster are April 22-24 and April 29-May 1. No tires, batteries, paint, appliances, hazardous material, yard waste or rocks will be allowed. He said appliances could be taken to recycle centers north or south of Aspenhof on Highway 47. Yard waste can be hauled off for a fee by Hubie Kluesner or Dry Fork Lawn Service. The Board will consider having an extra dumpster for the July 4th weekend.

* Donlin announced that the Board has approved a July 4th weekend fireworks display again this year. Reminder: The event is weather dependent and only authorized personnel are allowed to set off fireworks. The event will be Saturday, July 2. Rain date is July 3. Donlin again will accept donations to defray cost of the fireworks.

* Doell welcomed the new owners of cabin 83, Jason and Lori Schneider.

* Doell thanked Harry and Karel Smith for their contributions to Aspenhof over the years. The Smiths recently sold cabin 83.

Doell adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Ray Jordan, secretary