

# ***AuSable Acres Property Owners' Association***

P.O. Box 8, AuSable Forks, New York 12921  
www.ausableacres.org

## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES July 6, 2013**

The General Membership Meeting of the AAPOA was called to order at 10:05 AM, President Rosemary Barry presiding. Other Board members in attendance were: Loyd Brewer, Pete DeFina, Alice Looney, Phil Dooley, Paul Longenderfer, and Joe DeMarco. Pat Levine and Bob Santisiero were absent. There were 53 Association members in attendance

A motion was made approve the minutes from the 12/29/2012 General Membership Meeting. It was unanimously approved.

Guest speakers:

1. Randy Douglas, Town of Jay Supervisor spoke about the project to install broadband service by Charter within AuSable Acres. If all goes well most of the digging should be completed by this winter and service up and running by this time next year. He emphasized that that was just a general time frame.
2. Kristy Sprague, Essex County DA. She spoke briefly about having been appointed by Governor Cuomo to investigate public corruption.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT- Alice Looney**

1. Alice distributed and reviewed current expenditures as of July 1, 2013. Motion made and approved to accept financial report.

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT- PETE DEFINA**

1. Pete stated that we have a total 273 members at this point. That's roughly the same as in July of last year (269 members)
2. About 40% of those living in or owning property within the Acres are currently members
3. Pete reported that he recently sent of 300 reminders to people who have been members in the past and have yet to renew for 2013. Those membership forms are beginning to come in.
4. We are hopeful of, once again, going over the 300 member mark.

### **ARCHITECTUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE- Joe DeMarco**

1. Joe distributed and sheet containing the 13 projects that are either proposed or underway within the Acres in 2013. 3 new homes, 3 additions, 2 sheds, 2 garages, and 1 driveway extension.
2. There was a brief discussion regarding a concern raised about logging trucks going in and out of Ridge Top Road. Loyd thought that it was most likely logging taking place off of Acres property. Logging trucks are allowed to use public roads at this time of year. Chris Garrow, Town highway supervisor, can be contacted by anybody who thinks that something is being done that is not in compliance with regulations.

### **Trails Committee- Paul Longenderfer**

Paul reported that the spring trail day (May 4) was a success. He named and thanked all of the volunteers. They installed a small culvert on the Blue trail and created 4 water bars on the orange trail. There will be an additional trail day in the fall.

### **Security Patrol- Bob Santisiero**

Rosemary reported for Bob that all weeks except for two have been assigned to volunteers. We need two volunteers for the week of 8/25 and 9/1.

### **Roadside Clean up- Rosemary Barry**

A small group of volunteers met and cleaned part of AuSable Drive. It was a cold and rainy day which kept the group down in size.

### **Planters—Mary Ann Dee**

Mary Ann asked that if we do get dry weather this summer please occasionally water any of the planters near your home.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Loyd reported that the volleyball court is complete, the net is up and it's ready to use. The bocce ball court is not quite finished because of the rainy weather. It should be ready to use soon.
2. Paul reported that you can buy 50/50 raffle tickets now or at the picnic. The drawing will be held at the picnic at about 4PM. Also AuSable Acre tee shirts are being sold today. The picnic starts at 2PM. There will be a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary display board at the picnic, as well. Paul also mentioned that we will have a canoe race at the lake and some activities for children.
3. The fireworks display is set to begin at around 9 PM at Lake Eaton.
4. Paul explained the reason behind the 150 lot project. We have about 85 people who have signed the agreement to make membership in the AAPOA mandatory for their lot. That will not take effect until we reach 150 lots.
5. Tennis Court Repair: Rosemary reported that Vt. Tennis repaired cracks to the court under warranty and also repaired the graffiti damage to the court. That repair was covered by the award we received from the court case.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Election: Rosemary announced the 3 people who agreed to run for the 3 seats on the Board of Directors. She asked the membership if there were any additional nominations from the floor. There were none. The secret ballot election was held. The results were: 36 votes for Pete DeFina, 36 votes for Jim Phillips, and 35 votes for Tim Mainzer.
2. We discussed amending our constitution to move the second general meeting of the membership from December to Labor Day because of lack of attendance. There was a discussion to consider an October meeting. A vote was held on moving the second meeting to the fall, with a date to be decided by the Board. The measure was overwhelmingly approved.

3. Paul did a short presentation of our new website and our presence on Facebook.
4. Rosemary discussed the letter she wrote to Donna Bramer, the Town Assessor, regarding the large increases in assessments to properties within the Acres. She has yet to receive a response. She had a discussion with our Attorney to see if we can locate a lawyer who would represent people in fighting to get these assessments lowered. One member suggested that we look into being annexed to the Town of Wilmington if we are unsuccessful. Another member, who is on the Town's Review Board, stated that next March we should grieve the taxes to Ms. Bramer and if unsatisfied with the result appeal to the Town Review Board. People have used that successfully in the past.
5. Loyd discussed a future project which we are considering-- the building of a pavilion at the Lake. It would have a large storage area in the back and enough room for 9 picnic tables under the roof. We are now developing a sketch of the proposed pavilion. Loyd estimated the cost of materials at around \$11,000. The work would be performed by volunteers. The AAPOA would have to raise most of the money through donations to cover the cost of the project. We would have some dues money available that is earmarked for the recreation area and the general fund. Eric Johanson has committed \$1000 to the project.
6. Paul asked people to fill out the survey he developed to give the Board some feedback regarding member opinions.

### **Other**

1. John Johansson stated that the sterile carp program to help restore Lake Eaton seems to be progressing fine. It will be monitored for the next 5 years and the fish population will be adjusted as necessary. He also stated that the group "Protect the Adirondacks" is running a lake monitoring program called the Adk Lake Assessment Project—ALAP. He asked for volunteers to help with that monitoring
2. The September picnic will be held on 9/1.
3. Next roadside cleanup will be 8/24/13
4. A member asked if the Board would discuss with the Town how many times it would repair/maintain the dirt roads in the Acres. There doesn't seem to be any schedule.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 AM

Respectfully submitted,

*Pete DeFina*