SLRA Executive Committee Meeting June 15, 2024

At home of Thaw Malin and Cynthia Bloomquist

Meeting called to order at 1:10 by Clerk Thaw Malin

In attendance:

Thaw Malin, Clerk

Larry Cohan, Secretary

Cynthia Bloomquist, By-laws

John Anderson, Surveyor

Heidi Dietterich, Assessor

Alice Kyburg, Assessor

Not in attendance: Mike Urias, Assessor

* Thaw conducted a review of expenditures for the current fiscal year. Expenses to date were tallied to estimate required expenses for the balance of the year and begin budgeting for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Subtracting current committed expenses, the balance to date was 13,172.
* Mowing: H and L was hired to do the edge and field mowing for the current year. This firm may be interested in doing all road and tree maintenance in coming years, however, SLRA has current active contracts with other vendors at this time.
* Review of Signage: Per Officer Matt Gebo SLRA needs to have a sign stating “Private Road/No Trespassing” for West Tisbury Police to respond to calls about unusual cars or activity on Skiffs and Catboat.
* During a discussion about a no parking sign or similar for by the the mailboxes, Thaw suggested marking an X in a yellow rectangle there. We need to keep the area clear to the mail can be delivered and retrieved.
* Mailboxes at entrance to Skiffs: Mailboxes are available at this time. If residents would like a box they should go to the Vineyard Haven Post Office and fill out (or re-fill out) an application. Of note, the PO considers it their right to assign mail boxes to non SLRA residents even though the second box was installed at SLRA’s expense and work.
* Road Use fund: there was discussion about setting up a depreciation/road use fund as discussed at the 2023 Annual meeting. Such a fund would cost households an additional sum to save enough (half the estimated cost) to qualify for a loan for the balance of expense for road resurfacing. The annual amount of such an additional assessment would depend on how long we think the existing road will last, which is uncertain.
* By our calculations (thanks to Mike U.), a projected fund of 250K, assuming 3% p.a. over 7 years would require $635/year per household (there are 50 households in SLRA). If we believe the road will last another 10 or 15 years, the annual road use assessment comes down to $510 and $370 per household annually, respectively.
* At this time a couple of problematic “spider crack” areas are identified where asphalt needs to be removed and replaced. Estimate for this work by Jason Perry is $5000.00. John Anderson comments that some of this road damage may be the result of tree root damage from trees previously removed. The presence of roots could complicate this proposed road repair.
* There was also discussion whether the better route to financing the road reconstruction when the time comes could be subdividing the Common land and selling a house lot. Thaw volunteered to check with town officials to see if there are any restrictions on the property. The SLRA Trust and Subdivision documents are now posted on the website. These documents may have some bearing on the possibility of spinning off a lot from the Common land. See <http://www.skiffslane.com>.
* Bylaws: Cynthia reviewed the work of the Bylaws Committee. They determined that the Bylaws are functioning as needed and there are reasons t keep the meeting date in August, so no proposal will be made to revise them.
* Trustees: There was discussion about “what do the Trustees do?” Role of Trustees is to supervise the executive committee. A copy of the current Trust document is added to the website skiffslane.com. The Executive Committee anticipates the need to have a new Trustee appointment as Mike McCormack may be moving. The other Trustees are John Anderson and Julie Robinson. The rolle of the Trustees is to administer the Skiffs Northern Plains Trust, which holds title to the common lands and the roads in the subdivision and to ensure that the roads are maintained. This acts as a check on the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee failed to do its job, the Trustees have the right to apportion the costs of any maintenance to the lot owners.
* Changes of Executive Committee: John Anderson is retiring from his business and also stepping down from his long-held position as Surveyor. Heidi Dietterich is stepping down as an Assessor at the end of this term. Julie Robinson offered to run for an Assessor position. There was discussion about recruitment of new members to the Board giving preference to those who have not yet had the opportunity to be Board members. Alice suggested Graham Houghton as one possibility and offered to speak with him.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

June 24, 2024

Larry Cohan, secretary