

## **SKIFFS LANE ROAD ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 955  
WEST TISBURY MA 02575

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July 11, 2022

Dear Skiffs Lane Road Association Members:

Our annual meeting will be held this year at the West Tisbury Fire Station on Saturday, August 13, 2021 at 9am. You will find enclosed a Notice of Dues for 2022 and a Proxy to be filled out and returned to Julie Robinson (see below). Votes are tallied one per lot.

We would like to bring you up to date on happenings at SLRA.

### **Road Conditions-**

The road still has people driving too fast, both renters and owners.

Let's keep working together to keep the trash to a minimum along the road. Thank you to all the people that have been helping out and picking up the trash. We've noticed a significant decrease in roadside trash and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

A second cluster mailbox was installed at the foot of the road. This box replaced one that was damaged years ago and could not be replaced at that time. Thank you to Alice Kyberg and Abbott Bradley, 190 Skiffs, for installing the unit.

Mail boxes are available for those who would like one. The point person at the Vineyard Haven P.O. is Emily. To get a box, fill out an application card at the Vineyard Haven PO. Then call Emily at the PO number: 508-275-8777. There is no cost for the box use. Be aware though, that large packages and overflow mail need to be claimed at the Vineyard Haven Post Office, not West Tisbury, unless you agree to the PO leaving parcels next to the box.

### **Work in Progress:**

As you are aware, a focus of the Skiff's Lane Road Association is maintenance of the paved road on Skiff's and Catboat Lanes. The road, originally asphalted in the 1980s, is showing a great deal of wear. We have been diligently patching and repairing the roads to extend their life. We know from estimates made a decade ago that an eventual road replacement will be very expensive. At this time, it isn't clear if the materials that would be needed for a replacement are even available. For several years, we have not been able to find an "independent" contractor to do the road patching. Most of the tedious road patching and maintenance has been done by John Anderson and his crew and we are very

grateful for his dedicated work. The good news is that the maintenance is paying off and the road is in good shape. For an old road.

**Now the bad news.**

The pine trees that grew along the side of the road since the 70s are all becoming infected. Most of the trees are infested with pine borer beetles. The infections gradually debark and kill the trees which become brittle and threaten to fall into the road. SLRA has removed a number of these sick trees, but more remain.

To make matters worse, some healthy oak and other trees have grown roots under the road that uproot and crack the road surface.

At an executive committee meeting on July 3, the committee reviewed projected costs for road maintenance in the coming year and found that its initial estimates of costs were far below that which is needed. ( **Please see attachment of costs for projected work, below.**)

In an earlier memo the committee announced that the 2022-23 annual road maintenance dues will be increased to \$350.00, payable at the time of the Annual Meeting, or before. However, to cover necessary costs, an additional assessment will be needed, payable on December 1, 2022. Some of the fee increases reflect increases in labor cost. But most of the cost reflects the massive work needed to deal with aging trees whose time has come, and repairing, forestalling, damage to the paved road.

If we pay for the entire anticipated 3 year tree removal project in this fiscal year, the additional assessment (payable Dec 1) is calculated to be \$450 per household or lot.

**At the time of this writing**, the committee is determining how much work must be done this year and how much can be spread out over a three year period. The additional assessment will depend on this determination. An unknown, of course, is how many additional trees will need to be removed after the “three year plan” is effected.

**Financial Report 2021-2022:**

Dues collected \$10300.00  
Real estate taxes \$827.42  
Road Maintenance  
Plowing, tree trimming etc. \$13780.18  
rap on road edges  
Insurance \$1918.92  
Postage & Box fee \$84.00 (annual)  
Total bills paid as of June 30, 2022 \$23846.52  
Current checking account balance as of 6/30/2022 = \$757.

SKIFFS LANE ROAD ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 955  
West Tisbury, Mass. 02575

1 July 2022

Re, Board Meeting 3 July 2022

This is a projected cost breakdown for maintenance for 2023 on Skiffs Lane and Cat Boat Lane, per My Survey and Ed Sylvia's, survey of the road.

Skiffs Lane

1) Seam seal	Estimated Labor/Materials	\$ 7,500.00*
2) Remove 6 trees, 3 with beetles, 3 roots causing road lifting		
	Labor	4,200.00*
2a) Stump grinding 6 stumps		700.00*
3) Mowing road 6 times		3,000.00*
4) Snow plowing 15 times		3,000.00*
5) Chipping winter storm damage		2,000.00
6) Cut back sides of road and tree trim		3,000.00
	Sub total	\$ 23,400.00

Cat Boat Lane

7) Seam Seal		3,000.00*
8) Remove 1 tree that is rising the road and grind stump		816.00*
9) Cut back sides of road and tree trim		3,500.00
10) Mow Common Land		750.00*
11) Cut back sides of Common land		1,500.00
	Sub Total	\$ 8,750.00

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10) Office work		\$ 1,000.00
11) Real Estate tax		2,400.00
12) Insurance		1,918.92
13) Lawyer fee's for Applying property Liens estimated		1,000.00
	Sub Total	\$ 6,318.92
	Projected total	\$ 38,468.92

NOTES;

\*If due are \$350.00 per lot, that equals a total of \$17,500.00.

2)  
SLRA-Budget continued

NOTES.

We are short \$20,968.92, a surcharge of \$450.00 per lot would be needed to cover all our expenses.

If we spread this over 3 years, the following is what we needed to do this year.

Items below need to be budgeted this year

<u>Skiffs Lane</u>	
1, 2 (3 trees pushing up road), 3, 4	Total \$ 15,950.00
<u>Cat Boat Lane</u>	
7, 8, 9	4,566.00
Estimated cost of seam seal	1,159.60
<u>Constant Bills</u>	<u>6,318.92</u>
	Total Money Needed \$ 27,994.52

If we do just items above, will we carry a balance forward to the next year, 2023 of \$ 10,494.52. Also, next year 6 more tree will need to be removed/stumped \$4,900.00 Total \$ 15,374.40

2024 project budget would be \$ 38,943.32, plus any other unknow expenses.

**SLRA on the Web-**

Our website address is. <http://www.skiffslane.com>. Please use the website to sign up for the use of the ball park. The website provides community news and allow for electronic sign-ups and closer monitoring of the common property. At the time of this writing, the website appears to be down and we are investigating what happened.

**Email addresses:** Larry Cohan is working on creating a complete and updated list of emails for all owners on Skiffs and Catboat. The email list is a continuous and ongoing project. There are several glitches in the current email distribution list and a new list will be published in 2023.

Please contact Larry with any updates. His email is [lawrence.cohan@gmail.com](mailto:lawrence.cohan@gmail.com)

**Horse Owners:** Please refrain from riding the horses in the infield of the ball park.

Nomination and Election of Officers: The Executive Committee very much wants new blood. Please submit nominations and self-nominations to Julie Robinson. ([jrobinson16@mac.com](mailto:jrobinson16@mac.com)).

**We really need new volunteers to take over for the current Board members.**

If you are interested in helping out with the road association, being an Assessor is a great way to start. You only have to attend one meeting in the Spring and you get to see how the Board works.

Please contact any member (and cc. Larry Cohan [lawrencecohan@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencecohan@gmail.com)) if you are interested in volunteering for any of Board positions:

Julie Robinson – Clerk

Kathy Cordray – Secretary, with support of Ali Peterson, accounting

John Anderson – Road Surveyor

Robbie MacGregor, Thaw Malin and Jack Cushman – Assessors

**2021-2022 Dues-** The executive committee has approved the dues to be \$350.00 with an additional December assessment tbd.

**Thank you very much!**

Julie Robinson – Clerk [jrobinson16@mac.com](mailto:jrobinson16@mac.com) 508-560-5065

John Anderson – Surveyor John: 508-776-1530 [jcamv5221@gmail.com](mailto:jcamv5221@gmail.com)



and the 3 Assessors:

Jack Cushman [cushjs@gmail.com](mailto:cushjs@gmail.com)

Thaw Malin [thaw3@mac.com](mailto:thaw3@mac.com)

Robbie MacGregor [compost96@gmail.com](mailto:compost96@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted

Larry Cohan, on behalf of the executive committee  
Skiffs Lane Road Association

### NOTICE OF DUES 2022

**Dues for 2021-2022 \$350.00**

**Date paid:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check number** \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE TEAR OFF AND RETURN

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Skiffs \_\_\_\_\_ or Catboat \_\_\_\_\_ (please check)

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (update please) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers: (winter) \_\_\_\_\_ (summer) \_\_\_\_\_

SLRA, secretary

P.O. Box 955

West Tisbury MA 02575

Skiff's Lane Road Association

**PROXY VOTE**

(There is one vote per HOUSEHOLD/lot. Voting is not by individual residents.)

Date:

Map:      Lot:                      or street address:

Signature

Name Printed

If you cannot attend the annual meeting, you may sign the proxy and provide a copy to a SLRA member you wish to vote on your behalf. That person should take your proxy to the next meeting

or return your vote to SLRA P.O. Box 955, West Tisbury MA 02575

Thank you.