

SKIFFS LANE ROAD ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 955
WEST TISBURY MA 02575

June 20, 2008

Dear Skiff Lane Road Association Members:

Our annual meeting will be on **August 2, 2008** at 9 AM at the West Tisbury Public Safety Building. You will find enclosed a Notice of Dues for 2008 and a Proxy to be filled out and returned to Kathy Cordray (see below).

We will vote on several interesting items at the meeting and hope to see most of our 51 households represented at the meeting. For both those who have been on Island through the winter and for the unfortunates who have not, we would like to bring you up to date on happenings at SLRA. If you are unable to attend, please fill out the enclosed proxy form designating an SLRA Executive Committee member to cast a vote for you. Please discuss the details of this letter with your proxy so he/she knows how to represent your wishes.

First- you will notice that the decrepit gates at the entrance to Skiff's Lane have been removed. We have replaced the rotten gate at the end of Skiff's Lane where it dovetails with Otis Bassett. Sturdy low maintenance metal gates are now in place.

While we were having tree work done on the street, we were also able to remove the sawed-off telephone posts that served as posts for the gates at the Skiff's Lane entrance. Those posts are now near the playing field in the common property. They may find a second life as benches.

As you drive into Skiff's Lane, please give thought to whether or not you would like to replace the gates, or consider other options to show that SLRA is a private area. We have discussed several options at past meetings:

- Do nothing
- Replace the gates, probably using new granite posts to mount them. We anticipate the cost of this option to be approximately \$3000, shared among our 51 households.
- Place large stones at the entry to mark the road entry, which can be engraved.

With great thanks to Susan Goldsmith, who has devoted her time and her website creation company's resources *pro bono* to SLRA, we are close to launching the SLRA web. The SLRA is designed to provide current information to Skiff's and Cat Boat residents. Some of the information is public access, other parts are password protected.

(For example, SLRA residents' emails and phones will be protected private information, only available to the Executive Committee).

Click on this address: <http://www.skiffslane.com>. Over the next few months we hope to fill the blank pages where there is only boilerplate text at present. The calendar section allows residents, their guests and renters to sign up for the common property to use the common property. We will ask Susan to talk about the website as it is currently planned and what additional uses for the web we might consider.

We continue to work with our attorney, Marcia Cini, to put into place the recording of our election of new Trustees. The Trustees are John Anderson, Mike McCormack and Julie Robinson. The appointment procedure which on the surface appeared to be straightforward, has complexities that were not originally anticipated. We hope to have the appointments resolved before this year's annual meeting.

Thank you to John Anderson, our Surveyor, for assessing road conditions. John is taking Comcast to task for some sloppy tunneling their subcontractor performed in laying cables under the road. This past winter, Ed Sylvia did a great deal of brush trimming and Skiff's and Catboat look much improved because of his company's work.

Now, the elephant in the room. While we continue to diligently fill cracks in the asphalt of Skiff's and Cat Boat Lanes, to preserve the road and stretch out their useable lives, we recognize that at some future time we will need to repave both roads. With good maintenance and luck, the roads may last us another ten years. But they might not.

We obtained an estimate last year for road replacement: \$200,000, approximately. That is the 2007 price. What the cost will be in 2017 is anyone's guess. When the road was initially paved in the late 80s, the cost was born by the SLRAs residents at that time, significantly fewer than our present 51 households. A depreciation fund was not set up in the late 80s, meaning money has not been put aside to eventually replace the road.

Given our road replacement estimate, it will cost each household \$4000.00 adjusted for the value of 2007 dollars, the rate of inflation and the cost of asphalt. We have had discussions with Sovereign Bank which may be willing to loan SLRA funds for a repaving; however, their preferred collateral is a 50% down payment of the cost, to be held in escrow until payment of the loan is made.

So, at our next meeting we will ask you the following:

Do you wish to set up a savings fund for an eventual road repaving of approximately \$200.00 per year *in addition* to dues? Or, do members wish to save personally to cover a major assessment when the road comes due?

The Executive Committee recommends the former. Your vote will determine policy.

After reviewing our expenses for 2007-8, we find we have sufficient funds in the treasury, allowing for unforeseen expenses, to reduce the dues from \$300 to \$250 for 2008-9. We are fortunate to have a sizeable road associate, so we are able to share costs efficiently. A nearby road association recently set its dues at \$600.00. Still, we recognize that dues are a substantial outlay. We thank you for your cooperation this past year in paying your dues promptly.

All residents are encouraged to participate in SLRA governance. Any residents who wish to be considered for nomination to the executive committee should submit their name to Kathy Cordray (see email below).

Current Committee Members:

Larry Cohan – President

Kathy Cordray – Secretary

John Anderson – Surveyor

Cynthia Bloomquist, Georgie White and Julie Robinson – Assessors

2007-2008 Finances

Dues collected		\$15,000.00
Real estate taxes	\$ 630.83	
Road Maintenance		
Plowing, tree trimming etc.	\$ 5370.00	
Insurance	\$ 1118.00	
Utilities	\$ 69.00	
Legal expenses	\$ 1190.00	
Total bills paid as of June 17, 2008	\$8427.83	

The long winter is past and we look forward to seeing you out and about enjoying the Vineyard. If you have questions about the information in this letter, please let us know.

With best regards,

Kathy Cordray, Secretary, 508-693-3246
kathy@flyingskunk.com

Larry Cohan, Clerk, 617 367 7128
lcohan@partners.org

NOTICE OF DUES 2008

Dues for 2008 \$250.00

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

508-693-3246

kathy@flyingskunk.com

**Skiff's Lane Road Association
Annual Meeting 9 a.m., Saturday, August 2, 2008**

PROXY

The undersigned hereby appoints the following member of the executive committee:

Larry Cohan
Kathy Cordray
Cindy Bloomquist
John Anderson
Julie Robinson
Georgie White

(specify by circling the one you wish to represent you), true and lawful attorneys with the power of substitution for the undersigned, to vote at the Annual Meeting of the members of the Skiff's Lane Road Association to be held at the West Tisbury Public Safety Building on State Road, or at any adjournments thereof, for the purpose of receiving and discussing reports, and for transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting, or any adjournments thereof, with all powers the undersigned would possess if personally present, hereby revoking any and all previous proxies.

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

Date:

Map: Lot:

Signature

Name Printed

