

2019 AWA Annual Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 28, 2019

Welcome and Election of Officers

The 2019 Annual Meeting was called to order at 7:25pm by AWA President, Sigurd Nilsen, with about 24 residents attending. The reading of last year's Minutes were waived as all Minutes are posted on the AWA website (www.amherstwoods.com).

President Sigurd Nilsen, Vice President Peggy Matthews-Nilsen (absent) and Treasurer, Kendall (Kip) Doble were re-elected unanimously. Secretary, Terry S. Johnson, resigned her position shortly before the Annual Meeting. No one volunteered to fill the Secretary position, so the position remains open.

Gypsy Moth Study Update

UMass Professor Joe Elkinton, was guest speaker reporting on the results of last year's Gypsy Moth Study. He reported that his study was a bust because the 10 consecutive days of rain in May 2019 collapsed the gypsy moth population. The gypsy moth caterpillars died soon after hatching in early May, and any that survived were attacked by a fungus in late May. He stated there will be no gypsy moth issue in 2020 because there were no adults to lay eggs in 2019. He also reported that hemlock trees appear to be at much lower risk of disease because a similar collapse of the woolly adelgid population. Ash trees however, remain at risk with the emerald ash borer. Bartlett Tree Experts, Greg Beck, was also scheduled as a guest speaker, but did not attend the meeting. Residents were encouraged to contact him directly (contact information on the AWA website) with any questions regarding gypsy moth treatments.

Financial Report

Treasurer, Kip Doble presented the 2019 Financial Report. Last year's revenue was \$25,522 and expenses were \$24,505, resulting in a surplus \$1,017. AWA's total reserves are \$13,785, which keeps AWA in good financial condition. AWA's single highest expense, \$15,816, was for landscaping services.

Property Manager's Report

Property Manager, Steve Abdow reported that Annual Dues collections continue to be successful with only two households requiring the services of a collection agency. In response to a question AWA will be looking into online payment for Annual Dues. Steve said that since street paving has been completed, next they will be adding low-maintenance perennials to the cul-de-sacs. Steve stated that he will place reflector stakes around the cul-de-sacs this winter to help guide snow plows and will contact DPW regarding snow-plows avoiding damage to the new curbs, particularly on the cul-de-sacs.

Sewer Extension Project Update

The Sewer Extension Project is nearing completion. Final paving of all Phase 2 side streets and Wildflower Drive was completed on Friday, October 25, 2019. Town Engineer, Jason Skeels, is continuing to work with the contractor on a few adjustments to the grading of several driveway aprons that are not draining properly. Other punch list items include: landscaping around the Wildflower Drive Pump Station, painting the interior of the Pump Station fence and completing loaming/seeding along curbs.

Other issues were raised including traffic calming options given our newly paved streets. It was noted that speed limit signs removed during paving will be reinstalled. Also, an issue was raised about an apron (mistakenly) installed at the opening to the Staging Area along Wildflower Drive. Sig Nilsen noted he is waiting to hear back from Jason Skeels about what will be done to correct this misplaced apron. An issue was raised about repaving sidewalks along Wildflower Drive and Larkspur Drive and it was explained that those decisions are now made by the Town's new Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Residents were encouraged to attend TAC meetings to learn where these neighborhood sidewalks are on the priority list. No one volunteered to attend these meetings and report back to the neighborhood.

Committee – Neighborhood Signs

At last year's Annual Meeting it was noted that the entrance sign at Old Farm Road has badly deteriorated and needs to be replaced. At that meeting, one resident stepped forward to work with Peggy to explore options to replace the sign. The entrance sign at Station Road will eventually need to accommodate new (wider) sidewalks.

Other Business

Sig Nilsen stated AWA will send out an updated AWA Neighborhood Directory in the next week or so. He also encouraged residents to visit the Amherst Woods website and to contact Peggy with any updates or suggestions.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.