

**MEETING OF AMHERST WOODS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BY ZOOM  
September 24, 2022**

Jane Sheffler called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM and presided. The following members also were present: Betsy Mullins, Jim Barnhill, Doug Gagnon, Peter Berek, Wade Elmore, Ralph Lowen, and Martha Hammer.

**FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

Most revenue is dues. Most expenses are landscaping. Insurance costs appear higher this year, but because we paid last year's premium in October of this fiscal year. The costs of insurance includes both general liability and officers' and director's liability.

Last year we spent more on landscaping than usual because nothing much was done during the sewers installation process and the Covid onslaught the previous years.

The current balance of the bank accounts combined is \$19,506.35. Total income was \$23,823. Total expenses were \$19,281.

Jane made a working budget for this fiscal year, because there was no formal budget created for the last two years or so. For annual meeting, we will present a proposed budget.

**LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE JOB DESCRIPTION**

A job description was displayed to the directors on Power Point. On motion made and seconded, the landscape committee job description was approved. Jane will send it to Denise Gagnon, chair of the landscape committee.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

We need a ratification vote to adopt a budget, and to elect officers. (A formal job description is not considered necessary.) To aid in the search for a treasurer, Jane will prepare a brief outline of the treasure's job along with the approximate time it takes. This should be done prior to the annual meeting so we can share it with potential candidates. We need help on the social committee. We would like to keep a seven member Board of Directors; we need to find new people if possible.

**THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING**

The date of the annual meeting was set for 7:00 p.m. on November 3.

**STREET LIGHTS**

The town efforts regarding street lights was discussed, but it was decided not to put it on the agenda, because it is a town issue, not an AWhA issue. There was sentiment for not taking neighborhood positions with the town.

**TRILLIUM WAY — TREES**

There is a Trillium lot owned by a person who lives on another street in Amherst Woods. A neighbor emailed Peggy, who then forwarded it to Jane and Betsy, that the lot owner was clear-cutting the lot, apparently to build a house. The back of the lot abuts AWhA property. The neighbor was concerned that the cutting might be on AWhA property and involved shade trees. The neighbor wanted to revisit restrictions.

There is no regulation of tree cutting by town, we understand, but there appears to be advice issued by the town. The wetlands are marked on the lot, as are a number of trees. Shade trees are trees marked by the town as such, apparently. The neighbor has been communicating with the correct town people to make sure regulations are adhered to.

#### **RESTRICTION AND TREE-CUTTING**

A discussion of deed restrictions and tree-cutting ensued. It was pointed out that the value of houses in Amherst Woods is in part because of trees. There was an interesting discussion of the role of trees in combatting global climate change, contrasted with the role of solar power. The board discussed deed restrictions and decided not to pursue a new set of restrictions because of practical and legal problems.

#### **SPRING VALLEY LANDSCAPERS**

One neighbor thought they had a bad experience with them. One person mentioned a good experience. A short discussion ensued.

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS**

They have been positive and successful in generating neighborhood friendliness and cohesion.

#### **BUY NOTHING DAY**

It is like a free tag sale, all on the same day. We need a person to organize it. Jane offered to do that. Wade suggested not trying to restrict it to the neighbors, for practical reasons. Several people offered descriptions on how it works, including keeping it simple. Jane offered to work on it. We can list it on the listserv, Facebook and Next Door.

#### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

We will send "save the date" thirty days in advance, and two weeks ahead (the minimum legally required). Jim will send the legal notice to Betsy to send to the entire neighborhood.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 11:28.

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Barnhill, as Secretary