



The Arboretum News

May 2008

1

May Board Meeting Minutes

The regular board meeting of the Arboretum Community Association was held May 13, 2008 at the Arboretum Clubhouse. President Bob Hittinger called the meeting to order. Directors Jay Ervin and Shirley McGraw were present, as well as Treasurer Tom Kehoe and Secretary Jo Hitchuk. Directors Bob Ahlers and Joe O'Donnell were absent. The minutes of the April 8, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Tom Kehoe reported that the operating fund balance as of April 30 was \$30,138, and the long-range fund balance, \$56,961. Expenses included landscaping supplies (\$325) and replacement of the carpet in the Clubhouse hallway (\$675.15); the biggest dollar amount for the month, however, was not an expense, but a contribution by the Social Committee in the amount of \$1,831, representing Flea Market proceeds.

Water consumption in the first quarter of 2008 was down -- last year we used 51,000 gallons, this year, 30,000 gallons. Unfortunately, the bill was

\$50 higher due to rate increases. We also pay a standing fee of \$350 each month for meters.

There are two outstanding dues payments. Letters have been sent.

Bob Hittinger stated that one of the outstanding dues is for McMahans, who are behind in their semi-annual dues assessment for a total of \$644. Bob has also received a letter from the Caswell Sewer Service stating that McMahans haven't paid their sewer bill and requesting the Arboretum to do so. Bob will send a letter advising that if timely payment is not made, legal action will be commenced. A motion was made and passed that payment would be made to Caswell Sewer in the amount of \$395.31.

Bob Hittinger stated that the community is very proud of the efforts and results of the Social Committee's second annual Flea Market.

Committee Reports

- **Landscape** – Jim Czekalski stated that in April, the landscapers planted bedding plants at the Arboretum's entrance, in front of the sign and in the center island. Weed control is in progress, particularly in front of the Clubhouse.

Jerry Johnson noted that there is a lot of dollar weed in the grassy area by the bridge. Jim will check into it.

Bo Plant said that the weeping willow tree near the bridge badly needs pruning. Jim said that the landscapers won't trim higher than 10 feet, so tree trimmers will have to be called.

Upcoming Board Meetings

Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Arboretum Clubhouse at 7:00PM. All Arboretum Community Association members are encouraged to come and make your voice heard.

- June: Tuesday, June 10th
- July: Tuesday, July 8th
- August: Tuesday, August 12th

- **Caswell Sewer Service**- Howard Newett said the plant is operating fine and we are in full compliance. He shared several recent news articles detailing sewer costs in neighboring communities which had exceeded projected rate increases.
- **Buildings and Grounds** – Joe O'Donnell was absent. Bob Hittinger said that the bridge guard which had been hit was repaired today. Irrigation work was done by the pond and at the entrance.
- **Social** – Judy O'Donnell was absent. Anh Baginski stated that the Flea Market was very successful. She thanked the community for donating all of the items. The Flea Market made 30 percent more than last year. Special appreciation was extended to Alice Ervin, Bo Plant, Lillian Hittinger, Karen Gould, Helen Czekalski, Judy O'Donnell, Helen Ratcliff, Sally Newett, Madred Boyer, John Wall, Joe O'Donnell, and especially, Bob Hittinger. The Social Committee is making a wish list of what they want to do for Clubhouse with the money.
- **Pool/Spa** – Pat Wells stated the Board needs to think about putting some long-range funds aside to re-paint and re-tile the pool, due to worsening etching. She will obtain an estimate. A new brominator valve was installed to assist functioning of the spa. All other systems are working well.

Folks are reminded to rinse off sand before entering the pool.

Diversified gas was here this week to clean the pool and spa heaters. They found no corrosion.

- **Caswell Beach Liaison** – Jim Hinkhouse stated that it's still budget-setting time at Town Hall. If you have any wishes or desires, now is the time to let them be known. After

June 30, it will be too late to add items to the budget.

The golf course has made inquiries about putting permanent bathroom facilities on the golf course. They were told to apply for a building permit. If permanent facilities are built at the same places temporary ones are now, one would be on the Yaupon system, and the other on the Caswell sewer system.

Much discussion was had at the last Town Hall meeting concerning the problem of foxes eating turtle eggs. Frank Bausch said that \$1,800 was added to the draft budget for the turtle volunteers to purchase additional protective devices to keep foxes out of the turtle nests.

Jim reminded everyone that Town Hall meetings are always the second Thursday of the month.

Frank Bausch said there was a budget workshop yesterday. It looks like the tax rate is going to be 16 or 17 cents. It's currently 11 cents.

- **Architectural Review Board** – Jerry Johnson stated that the ARB made the last inspection of the Walsh home and everything was in order. No other activity is currently ongoing.
- **Clubhouse Reservations** – Bo Plant stated there are five reservations for May. They are all Arboretum groups.
- **Clubhouse Manager** – Pat Wells stated that if they haven't already, residents should take a look at the new carpeting in the Clubhouse back hallway. It's a much better quality carpet with a thicker pad.

Bell Supply came last week and removed a very badly rusted air handler from the attic and installed a new one. The new one should give

us a break on electricity because of the new technology.

The insurance inspector was here, and said we passed all of the requirements.

Old Business

- Russ Barlowe summarized the results of his research concerning repair/replacement of the tennis courts. Pine seedlings are coming up in cracks, and something will have to be done eventually. Four residents recently played tennis at a court in Myrtle Beach that uses Flex Court material. Impressions included: pine needles and acorns will get caught in the material and have to be vacuumed out; the material is not slippery, it is easy on the legs; water drains quickly, enabling playing right after rain. It is essentially maintenance free, guaranteed for 15 years, and can be installed by residents. Russ provided the Board with several options and price estimates. After discussion, the Board agreed to take the matter under advisement and make a decision. Bob Hittinger thanked Russ for his research and presentation.

New Business

- Alice Ervin stated that problems are occurring continually when trying to email messages to residents via the Google groups website. She proposes that a website be purchased that will provide mailing list functions that can be managed and controlled by us to a greater extent than we have with Google. Alice has been researching companies and has found a web-hosting company that will cost about \$100 a year. It will have a calendar, multiple mailing lists, and be configured to provide members-only groups. It wouldn't be under the control of one person, but rather, would be shared.

The Board will discuss her proposal in the near future and make a decision.

- Bob Hittinger announced that a special meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21 at 11 a.m. concerning the appeal of an ARB decision denying removal of a tree. Interested community residents may attend.
- Bob Hittinger stated that new hibiscus plants are needed for the front of the clubhouse. If anyone would like to volunteer to pick up new plants, it would be appreciated.
- Bob Hittinger stated that even though it's early, in November there will be three seats available on the Board. If anyone is interested, please contact Bob.
- Max Williams stated that fruition of a lot of hopes and dreams that began when the Town acquired the lighthouse are going to be realized very soon. There is a lot of work going on in terms of building walkways and placing on the site many plants that are native to the region and hopefully will do well on the site. There will be a birthday party at the lighthouse on Saturday, May 17 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Parking will be available at the Coast Guard Station and everyone is invited to come. Volunteers are needed to help with more plantings between now and Saturday.

Public Comment, Q's and A's

- Jim Hinkhouse asked the status of the Clubhouse television. Jay said he is still researching the issue, but it is expected that a new one will be purchased. If and when that happens, the old one will have to be disposed of.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Jo Hitchuk
Secretary

Next regular meeting Tuesday, June 10, 2008.

MAY 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				 1 10:00 AM Clubhouse Cleaning	 2 8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics	3
						
4	5 8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics 7:00 PM-9:00 PM Caswell Sewer Mtg. CLUB HOUSE REPAIRS	6  9:00 AM-12:00 PM LEMUS MEETING 9:00am Social Mtg. CLUB HOUSE REPAIRS	7 8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics 7:00 PM-10:00 PM Mah Jongg 9:00am Director's Meeting CLUB HOUSE REPAIRS	8 CLUB HOUSE REPAIRS	9 8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics CLUB HOUSE REPAIRS MAD ABOUT OPERA 11:00-NOON	10
11 Mother's Day	12  8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics	13  7:00 PM-9:00 PM ACA MEETING	14  8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics  7:00 PM-10:00 PM Mah Jongg	15  10:00 AM Clubhouse Cleaning	16  8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics	17 Armed Forces Day
18	19  8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics	20  7:00 PM-9:00 PM ARBORETUM BOOK CLUB	21  8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics  7:00 PM-10:00 PM Mah Jongg 11:00am BOD Mtg.	22	23  8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics	24  Noon-4:00pm Clubhouse reserved by Mahler's for B'day party
25	26  8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics Memorial Day (Observed)	27 10:00AM SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING	28  8:30 AM-11:00 AM Water Aerobics  7:00 PM-10:00 PM Mah Jongg	29  10:00 AM Clubhouse Cleaning	30	31

JUNE 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																			
1 Celebration of Life - Memorial - Ervin NOON-5:00PM Clubhouse only	2  7:00 PM -10:00 PM Caswell Sewer Mtg.	3  9:00 AM-12:00 PM LINUS MEETING	4  7:00 PM -10:00 PM Mah Jongg	5	6  MAD ABOUT OPERA 11:00-NOON	7																																																																																			
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JULY 2008

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		<p>1</p>  <p>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM LENUS MEETING</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>8:30 AM - 11:00 AM Water Aerobics</p>  <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mah Jongg</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00pm Golf Cart Parade at Caswell Dunes</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Independence Day</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>8:30 AM - 11:00 AM Water Aerobics</p>  <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Caswell Sewer Mtg.</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM ACA MEETING</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>8:30 AM - 11:00 AM Water Aerobics</p>  <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mah Jongg</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>10:00 AM Clubhouse Cleaning</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
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AUGUST 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						
3	<p>8:30 AM - 11:00 AM Water Aerobics</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Caswell Sewer Mtg.</p>	 <p>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM LINUS MEETING</p>	 <p>8:30 AM - 11:00 AM Water Aerobics</p>  <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mah Jongg</p>	 <p>10:00 AM Clubhouse Cleaning</p>	8	9
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122 Flowering Bridge Path
Caswell Beach, NC 28465**