



The Arboretum News

June 2008

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June Board Meeting Minutes

The regular board meeting of the Arboretum Community Association was held June 10, 2008 at the Arboretum Clubhouse. President Bob Hittinger called the meeting to order. Directors Bob Ahlers, Jay Ervin, Shirley McGraw and Joe O'Donnell were present, as well as Treasurer Tom Kehoe and Secretary Jo Hitchuk. The minutes of the May 13, 2008 were corrected to reflect that there is a quarterly, rather than monthly, standing fee of \$350 for water meters.

Tom Kehoe reported that the operating fund balance as of May 30 was \$25,609, and the long-range fund balance, \$53,024. Expenses in May include propane. The price skyrocketed in January, and has been holding steady since then. The quantity used last month compared to May of 2007 was down 22 percent. But we're still about 6 percent over the 7-year average.

We received a credit from the landscapers in May. Jim Czekalski stated that landscapers spread the same amount of pine straw as last year, but didn't cover as much area. Because not as large an area was covered, an agreement was negotiated whereby we were given a credit of \$951.

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.

- July: **No Board Meeting For July**
- August: Tuesday, August 12th
- September: Tuesday, September 9th

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WWW.ARBORETUMHOA.ORG

The Social Committee purchased a range and dishwasher for \$1370 with Flea Market proceeds.

Long range expenditures were for purchase of a new television (\$1,637), replacement of the air handler in the Clubhouse attic (\$1,800) and digging of an irrigation well (\$500 so far). We have two unpaid dues, and a sewer charge which remains unpaid.

Committee Reports

- **Landscape** – Jim Czekalski stated that landscapers will be trimming trees and shrubs. Bob Ahlers noted that some of the grass in the island by the bridge appears to be dying. Jim will check into it. There is an ongoing problem with watering there, because a steady breeze blows the water away.

John Wall stated that the landscaping looks very nice, and is much improved since Jim has been in charge.

- **Caswell Sewer Service** - Howard Newett was absent. John Wall stated that there are no problems with the sewer service, and no action by the Town.
- **Buildings and Grounds** – Joe O'Donnell stated that we're still looking at areas of some roads, and hoping to get Brunswick Asphalt out for repairs. Some cement work

also needs to be done. There is no new damage that he is aware of.

Jerry Johnson stated there was a power outage at his house recently. It turned out to be an underground wire, 120 V that had deteriorated. It was fixed by Brunswick Electric. There will most likely be more underground wires deteriorating, since they were put in at the same time.

- **Social** – Judy O'Donnell was absent. Anh Baginski stated that there are no events in the near future, and the Social Committee is on vacation. As stated earlier, a new range and dishwasher was purchased recently with the help of Max and Shirley McGraw, who also arranged for installation.
- **Pool/Spa** – Pat Wells stated that in taking the cartridge out of the filter in the spa, a crack was discovered in the filter's inside casing. The company that manufactured it is out of business. A new source has been located, the filter has been ordered, and hopefully the spa will re-open soon.

There remains an ongoing problem with sand in the pool. Residents are asked to remind children to, at the very least, rinse their feet.

Recently, coins have been tossed in the pool. Coins left in overnight have a chemical reaction that leaves stains. Please remove any coins you see.

- **Caswell Beach Liaison** - Jim Hinkhouse stated the next Town meeting is Thursday, June 12 at Town Hall. It's a combination budget meeting and regular meeting. There will be a presentation on digital television. As you know, four counties in this area will be the first to switch to digital television this Fall.

There will be a presentation by a group on an initial movement to help provide affordable

housing for people who live in Brunswick County

Following will be a budget hearing. Residents will be given three minutes to voice their opinions on the budget. The Town is proposing a 5-cent budget increase. It appears that the Town is realizing that there are expensive capital expenditures coming up, such as sewer and water, and hopefully they will formulate a 5-year capital budget.

Coming up also will be a re-zoning request for Caswell Dunes and the Oak Island Golf Course. There are 2.2 acres by the 6th tee jointly owned now by the golf course and Caswell Dunes. Of the 2.2 acres, the Dunes wants to take 1.4 acres and turn it into 6 building lots and the remaining .8 is going to be a pond on the golf course. The zoning board and planning board recommends the implementation, but they must integrate all of the storm water run-off. A public hearing will be held in July.

There will also be discussion about a wild animal resolution and ordinance in Caswell Beach that will cover not only alligators and raccoons, but turtles and foxes. The proposed ordinance will prohibit feeding of wild animals; and it's written to protect all wild animals.

Also, water rates from the Town will be discussed. Their supplier is the County, and the County is increasing their rates. They're thinking of putting in a two or three-tiered system for the water. The big users in the Town seem to be the homeowners associations with irrigation. The fact that the Arboretum has put in two wells to cut down on that shows good vision on the part of the community.

On Monday, June 30, there will be a one-day pick-up of white goods by appointment only

by calling the Public Works Department at 448.1155. White goods include things like old barbecue grills. It does not include anything that would cause contamination, such as an old computer or an old television.

Deborah Ahlers stated that since the issue of foxes eating turtle eggs has been discussed, 4 foxes have been killed. A dog is also presumed to have been killed. It's possible that someone is baiting the turtle nests with poison. Three of the foxes have died in the Baptist Assembly area. The dog that died was in that area too. Also a young fox was found dead near the Arboretum beach access last weekend. The next animal that is found dead will be picked up and tested by Wildlife. Until this issue is resolved, Deborah would like dog owners to be extra cautious when walking their dogs on the beach and consider keeping them on-leash and not letting them eat anything on the beach. If someone is baiting the nests, conceivably a bird could pick up a poisonous fragment and then drop in an area where a dog would find and eat it. Be very very careful with your animals on the beach.

Deborah also stated that the 4th of July holiday's golf cart parade will be held on July 3, and will be sponsored by Caswell Dunes. Information will be distributed soon. Those who decorate their golf carts and participate in the parade will be asked to congregate at the Dunes clubhouse at 11:30 a.m. for the judging. Hot dogs and other food items will be sold. It's always a lot of fun, so get ready to decorate your golf carts and be a part of it.

Bob Ahlers stated that in response to his recent email about mulch, the giveaway in the Clubhouse parking lot was very successful and disappeared by mid-day on Saturday. Ocean Greens will get the next load, and Chuck is probably going to bring another load back here for the people who missed out on it. The mulch is very fine, so is good to put in the soil.

- **Architectural Review Board** – Jerry Johnson stated that there are no houses in the process of being built, and all deposits have been returned.
- **Clubhouse Reservations** – Bo Plant stated there are several reservations this month, but only one that is a paid reservation. The others are Arboretum residents.
- **Clubhouse Manager** – Pat Wells stated that if they haven't already, residents should take a look at the two beautiful new appliances. The new range and dishwasher were installed by Rodney Herr, owner of Elite Cabinets, and he did a fabulous job. Also, Rodney was able to save the counter top. Thanks to the McGraws for bringing someone in who was top-notch.

The 2nd quarter pest control was done last week, so we're up to date.

Thanks to the Board, we now have a 52-inch new television, and are we are connected to Direct TV, and now have over 200 channels for residents to enjoy.

There were two incidents in the Clubhouse recently that were followed by emails to all. One involved adults who allowed family members to sit on upholstered furniture in wet swim suits. The second was a bathroom toilet being plugged which resulted in the toilet running for 48 hours.

There were also 4 instances of toilets not being flushed. If you have children who use the Clubhouse bathrooms, please check the toilets before leaving. It's common courtesy.

Bob Hittinger asked John Wall to start gathering information for long-range budget planning. John asks that if anyone has suggestions, please email him. The items will be discussed at the September meeting.

Old Business

- **Arboretum Website** – Alice Ervin stated that a domain has been purchased and mailing lists are up and running. There are multiple mailing lists, such as full members, board of directors, and social committee. If you have a committee group that you want a special list for, let Alice know and she will create a list for you. That way, it won't be necessary to remember who the members are for a particular group.

There is a website committee and she's hoping that by the 1st of July, there will be something up that will be basically static information – pages that don't change. Long term, Alice is looking at getting a Content Management System (CMS) which will allow people to keep information up-to-date simply by permission on their login.

If you are not part of a list you are sending an email to, there will be a short delay before the email is published. Don't use Google anymore – it's not being maintained.

If you are interested in being on the website committee, please call or email Alice. She would appreciate the help.

New Business

- There was no new business.

Public Comment, Q's and A's

- Bob Baginski asked if there was a tennis court update. Shirley McGraw responded that they're waiting for an additional estimate, and no decision has been made to date.
- Bob Baginski also inquired about the status of a proposed security system. Bob Hittinger replied that a good solution has not been found to date.

- John Wall said that he had been having trouble with his service from Time Warner (snow on screen, bad reception). When a cable person checked the box, it was found that the voltage was so low, it was lucky they were getting any signal at all. Others said they had the same problem. Jim Hinkhouse said that's a franchise with the Town of Caswell Beach, and he believes the Town has to bring some pressure on the company because the citizens aren't getting service. Jerry Johnson stated that it's not a new problem – there is a deterioration problem with the cables underground here, and specifically with the line coming into the Arboretum. Deborah Ahlers urged residents to list the problems, and then call Jim Carter at Town Hall and ask him to talk to Time Warner about it.
- There was a brief discussion on vandalism that has occurred in the Clubhouse in the past, and a request to review bylaws in an effort to enforce rules.
- Alice Ervin announced that bridge lessons are being held every Wednesday at the Clubhouse from 3 – 5 p.m. Shirley McGraw is teaching the class. Bridge is being played every Tuesday night at the Clubhouse from 7 – 9 p.m. If you are interested, please join them.
- Bob Hittinger stated that candidates are needed to run for the Board in November. If you are interested, please contact Bob.

Bob Hittinger announced that there will be no July ACA meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.










Jo Hitchuk,
Secretary

Next regular meeting August 12, 2008




JUNE 2008

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AUGUST 2008

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**The Arboretum Association
122 Flowering Bridge Path
Caswell Beach, NC 28465**