



## **HAMMOND ACRES CLUB, INC.**

### **MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING**

**August 5, 2023**

A quorum was reached, and the meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

President Charlie Lotspeich welcomed the participants and asked the Board members present to introduce themselves. 45 members attended.

Minutes of the 2022 meeting. Upon review of the minutes, Dawn Monahan moved to approve the minutes, and John Rooney seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Annual Budget. John Rooney presented the budget (attached) for Treasurer Mike Martin, who could not attend. John noted that costs for maintaining the property are continuing to go up. The Board has voted to raise 2024 dues to \$645, a 10% increase. The following was discussed:

- Tom Sheehan asked how many dues are outstanding. John said he believes it is around 6 (down from 11).
- Jackie Hayden commented that the number for road expenditures seems low. John responded that some incurred expenses haven't yet been recorded.
- Another participant asked for more detail on the gate expenditure. Dawn Monahan explained the location (above the beach) and what (an alternative entry) it was. Steve suggested that some money be spent on steps to prevent erosion. Jackie added that that might be advisable for safety reasons.
- Another participant asked for more details on the golf course expenses, which exceeded the budget. John Rooney responded that a water line was replaced. He noted this was done using volunteer labor: the project cost was machine and materials only.

Howie moved to approve the Budget as presented, and Alan Kirouac seconded. Members approved unanimously.

Election of Board members.

The three present individuals (Peter Contuzzi, Douglas Thayer, and Tom Wartenberg) introduced themselves. Dorothy Martin was not present. Peter, Douglas, and Dorothy were re-elected via ballot.

Election of Officers. John Rooney (candidate for Vice-President) and Margaret Wood (candidate for Clerk) introduced themselves. Mike Martin (candidate for Treasurer) was not present.

Tom moved to elect the officers as presented, and Jackie seconded. The vote of the membership was unanimous.

### **Updates:**

**Dam Project by John Rooney.** John commented that the state inspects the dam every five years, which gives it a rating. At the last inspection, the dam slipped from good to fair: when this happens, the state mandates improvements. The proposed project is currently in the environmental permitting phase, with construction expected in 2024.

**Roads Update by Douglas Thayer.** Doug noted that the roads are currently maintained by volunteers. This annual work includes reshaping the crowns, keeping culverts clean, keeping brush cut back, and tending to fallen limbs and trees: 40-60 man hours/year are put into these efforts. Work parties are a huge help. Upcoming work includes grading potholes and lots of brush clearing this year: Douglas anticipates that ½ of the brushwork will be done before fall. As discussed earlier, the budget line item for the coming year has been increased substantially because some larger projects need to be undertaken that cannot be accomplished by volunteers. Participants had the following questions/comments:

- Rob asked if there was a plan to get the brush taken away. Doug responded that that is a fall project, including cutting and chipping leaning trees. As noted earlier in the meeting, there has been some discussion with NationalGrid about their responsibility for removing trees over power lines. Douglas commented that there would also be brush hogging the road's edges in the fall and asked that individuals remove material that could impact drainage.
- Laura Katz expressed concerns about protecting water pipes. Douglas responded that this is a constant battle. Laura also expressed concern about piling up silt. Douglas responded that the silt would be removed going forward.
- Jane asked about other limbs. John said they would be removed during the work party.

**Tree Update by Peter Contuzzi.** Peter noted that it is a problem when shoreline trees die and fall into water: if you see overhanging trees, please let him know. Peter also spoke about the importance of protecting the hemlocks from wooly adelgid: there have been two treatments over the past seven years. The treatment is a horticultural oil that suffocates the wooly adelgid. Hemlocks infected with wooly adelgid will die within 5-7 years: it is impossible to remove wooly adelgid, but only to manage them. He encourages members to look at their trees: wooly adelgid are small white objects about the size of ½ grain of rice. Peter is happy to come out and look at trees for members. Bartlett Tree experts can estimate treatment when they come out to treat the community trees. Peter commented that horticultural oils should never be used near water. Participants had the following questions/comments:

- Tom Wartenberg commented that the horticultural oils used to treat wooly adelgid are not harmless: they suffocate all insects, not just the wooly adelgid. Reiterated what Peter noted regarding the importance of staying away from water.
- Laura Katz commented that horticultural oils should be used in the fall to reduce impacts on pollinators and other beneficial insects and reiterated the importance of avoiding the water.

**Hammond Acres Watershed Committee (HAWC).** Update from Steve Daiber and Dawn Heffernan. Steve spoke about the importance of native plants in nutrition for local insects and, hence, native birds. Dawn talked about the invasive removal project that HAWC has undertaken around the golf course, which has revealed native plants that have been obscured. HAWC will be following up with the planting of

additional natives. Steve and Dawn both encouraged other people to join HAWC. Judy Leeds chimed in to encourage members to take a walk around the golf course to view what's been completed.

Discussion. The following comments were heard from members in attendance:

- Santha Parke noted the importance of thinking about how members approach people who are not known: this can be done gracefully. Surrounding and intimidating individuals suspected of not being members must stop.
- Judy Leeds said she would love to have a community contact information book.
- Rob Maloni expressed concern about renters putting boats into the pond. If people want to rent their place out, they should rent the boats and not allow other boats to be used. Charlie noted that boats are supposed to have stickers. Joe's wife suggested we need larger signs, but Ron responded that the rental properties are not using the access points. Dawn Monahan said that if there is no enforcement, nothing will change. She recommended sending a letter. Don commented that the enforcement is problematic: people who have been admonished are nasty. Dan suggested that we update guidelines to say members will receive substantial fines if their renters put boats in the water. Maria Rooney said that we need to stop picking on kids. Charlie said this would be an ongoing conversation.
- Don asked that we use a PA system for future meetings.

The business of the meeting being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15.