Catspaw POA Executive Board Meeting

May 21, 2020 7:00pm

Board members present:

Billy Dasher, President

Frank Lee, Vice President

Laurie Holmes, Communications

Rich Castle, Roads

Glenn Farrow, Governance

Jim Allgood, community resident

Financial security: Billy brought up the concern with people coming into the newly vacant Treasurer position to have an annual inspection by an accountant or bookkeeper to alert the board to any anomalies. The board agreed it was a good idea and each board member will reach out to financial professionals seeking information and report back at the next board meeting.

Upcoming POA meeting: With NC Covid restrictions, it does not seem possible to have a face to face POA meeting in July as planned. The board felt an in person meeting was important due to recent allegations made against some board members. With some restrictions being lifted, it was felt postponing the meeting to October would be in the best interest of the membership. A motion by Rich Castle to move the meeting to Saturday October 10th was seconded by Farrow and passed unanimously.

Road Report: Rich Castle presented what is involved with a comprehensive road plan. He pointed out there has not been one in the past 10 years and he is working on a permanent inventory and assessment that will be flexible enough to grow with the association. A spread sheet is currently being populated that inventories every culvert, sign, and road details on the common road and Catspaw. After the inventory is complete, an inspection of each culverts common condition and a routine replacement priority score will be assigned. Also included, will be professional evaluation of low use roads to bring them up to standards. These include but are not limited to Woodchuck, Rox, and lower Walnut Gap, it is a time consuming project that will be complete prior to the October 2020 meeting.

Turn arounds: Frank Lee brought up board members identifying areas on upper Catspaw for a turn around to be incorporated with existing driveways or wide spots where the association could pay to move a gate or otherwise create a properly signed turnaround.

Budget report: Billy Dasher reported from the last bank statement that our working account has a balance of $1440.52, and our savings account has a balance of $65,039.17.

Quarterly Meetings: Laurie Holmes suggested going forward we have quarterly meetings, face to face when possible. All present believed it was a great idea and will go far in preventing misunderstandings and keep everything more transparent.

Oversight of Roads: Rich Castle presented how he observed projects being green lighted under the old Road Chairman and explained that is how he was conducting himself. It was then handed to each board member of what their expectations were. Rich was authorized to conduct annual routine maintenance as scheduled per the budget with and FYI email to the board. He would seek board approval for abnormally expensive, special projects not within the scope of normal maintenance, and direction on the lesser used roads mentioned above.

Governance Report: Glen Farrow has read the bylaws, was made aware of existing committee members, and is ready and willing to begin on projects both new and pre-existing. Frank Kee explained that Art Trufelli was working on a review of existing covenants and asked Glenn to familiarize himself with them.

Bylaw Discussion: A general discussion took place regarding the scope and formality of our current bylaws. Frank gave a brief discussion of the events that took place that led to the new bylaws as he was the association president during the time. Some of the points made:

--currently 7 officers, it is believed by some, 5 would be just as effective without returning to a “Good ole boys Club”. Seven members puts a burden on those willing to serve without much backup should a member resign, die, or want to take a couple of years off.

--there are several areas that are too rigid and does not allow the association flexibility to adapt with the dynamics of Catspaw.

--the subject of proxies was brought up and the appearance of people collecting a disproportionate number to further personal agendas.

This is an active discussion that will be addressed at each of our meetings until a decision to move forward is adopted or abandoned. One thing agreed upon is a letter from the board to the entire membership explaining the problems the bylaws create, how we think the changes will help and provide full transparency and to avoid association members being manipulated.

A motion to adjourn was made by Billy at 8:45pm and seconded by Frank and passed unanimously.

Submitted by Rich Castle, reviewed and posted by Laurie Holmes. 6/2/2020