

Forest Home Improvement Association
Officers' Meeting
Date: November 11, 2013, 7:30 pm
Location: Bill Arms' Home

In attendance: Claudia Fuchs, President; David Gross, Past President; Bill Arms, Vice President; Montana Petersen, Treasurer; Cindy Bowman, Secretary.

1) Topics

Responsibilities of the officers – were discussed, particularly the Secretary’s role for the 2013-14 year. Cindy Bowman will be responsible for note taking at the FHIA meetings and producing the minutes; Claudia Fuchs will oversee the directory maintenance and distribution, daily mail coordination, list serve and FH announcements, in addition to her responsibilities as President; David Gross will serve as back-up for list serve communication and FH announcements when Claudia is travelling or has no internet access.

Meeting dates for 2014 –the following dates and times were decided upon:

Tuesday, January 21st, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Tuesday, March 18th, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Tuesday, May 20th, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

July, TBD

Tuesday, September 23rd, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Thursday, October 23rd, 7:30 – 9:00 pm – Annual Meeting

Holiday party date and organization – Bill Arms kindly offered his home once again but encouraged “spreading the cheer around,” suggesting others might want to host the party in their FH homes. Bill said that it’s both fun to have and an easy gathering to host since everyone brings food and drink. Bill was going to make inquiries as to whom else might be interested having the party. It was noted that Michael Bend suggested the hosting duties should not fall on a FHIA officer.

The proposed holiday party date is: December 14th

2) On-Going Business

Directory Update - The directory is underway and will soon be completed. It was discussed that the directory may be distributed in pdf format and a print copy could be distributed to any residence "on demand."

Street Captains - Claudia Fuchs will oversee street captain assignments. For the time being, Claudia will serve as Crest Lane street captain (to gather updated information for the directory) and Cindy Bowman will serve as McIntyre's street captain (for the same purpose and in addition to the east side of Judd Falls Road). Later in the meeting it was also suggested that the Street Captains could serve as community greeters to new residents.

Treasury Business to Report - All the FHIA officers contributed their dues at this meeting. The annual 2014 request for dues will begin for all FH residents at the January meeting.

3) THE PARK

Update reported by Montana Petersen who said there weren't any additional chores to do in the park before the winter; she noted that the Town is scheduled to do a leaf clean up. Bill Arms suggested that both the Town and Friends of the Park be involved with the leaf clean up.

Montana also suggested that sometime before February, the Friends of the Park Committee [Danny, Robin, Ellen, Meredith, Elizabeth & Seth] review the planting decisions that will then be forwarded to Rich. There is \$5,000 available to spend on plantings in 2014.

Later in the meeting there was discussion about possibly putting play equipment in the Park for those families with small children that have no close playground available. Two questions were raised with this: 1) Would the town approve a playground at this site? 2) Would this be safe for children since the intersection is very busy? David suggested that there could be a large liability issue involved here.

4) OTHER

Insurance - With regards to insurance liability, David Gross reported that a 12-month umbrella policy for the community, which would include coverage in and around the park, would cost the FHIA approximately \$328 for annual coverage (approximately 30% of the budget) or approximately \$200 per event. His contact at the insurance company, Karen Supek, had thoroughly researched and then given this estimate. Claudia said that she would follow up on any further research involved with the insurance.

The bridge - Bruce Brittain will keep the community posted on the bridge construction. There is a short window for the work to begin and it looks as if this will happen. When the bridge is moved, the Bowmans will attempt to document this, if possible, as part of Forest Home history.

Dam debris – It was reported that Brent Stevens asked if something could be done about the dam debris nearby the Park. It was suggested that Herb Engman be asked whether the Town would be able to do something; it was also suggested that since the dam belongs to Cornell, then possibly the University would see to this.

4) OTHER (continued)

Hasbrouck bench design ~ the bench will look very nice with the right plantings, was one comment.

Chrissy and Irene (from the Plantations) have offered to be available for consultation on plantings and will provide a native plant list. Montana has done a superb job with consulting all FH residents interested in the project. David suggested there could be another meeting to decide on plantings with just the FH Committees and move ahead with those choices (consulting Plantations was unnecessary).

Cornell & The Plantations - it was suggested that FHIA request a meeting with Gary Stewart, Director of Community relations for Cornell, so we are aware of what Cornell is planning that impacts Forest Home. A follow-up suggestion was that there should be two meetings: one meeting with the Plantations and a second meeting with Cornell (Gary Stewart).

It's important to establish a relationship with the new Director of Plantations when he or she comes on board.

Also noted was that there seem to be discussions at Cornell about fencing the botanical garden.

Deer Management – David asked the board if they were willing to have David and Bruce further research the proposed deer management effort. Further research was granted.

How to get more FH residents involved – It was suggested that it may be beneficial to have something on paper for next fall's annual meeting listing all the ways FH residents can get involved in our community.

Highlight our residents and draw on their expertise possibly with featured profiles on our website. The idea would be to provide a better understanding and appreciation for who our neighbors are that make up such an interesting community.

Lyme Disease ~ The board acknowledged that this is a growing concern for residents, particularly with the number of deer in our neighborhood's natural surroundings. Montana will reach out to Elizabeth so she knows she's been heard.

With regards to the interest in photovoltaic panels by one of our residents, David suggested she get involved with the current sustainability committee; if they are not in the position to help with this idea, the committee might possibly be the best to guide her to more help with her idea.

Closing: at approximately 9:00 pm the meeting adjourned. Everyone bid Bill adieu, walking out into the misty dark and back to their historic homes to the sound of waterfalls. How fortunate to be able to live in this most beautiful locale.