AMCS Meeting May 10, 2021

Meeting started at 6:10pm

Attendance – Kathleen Lausman, Jamie Wright, Peter Humphrey, Jim Gray, Giselle LeClair. Regrets – Teresa Salamone.

Accept the minutes from April 6, 2021. No questions or concerns. Jamie W suggested the minutes be accepted, Seconded by Peter H.

**Discussion regarding how to proceed with collaboration with other committees**.

* Getting reports from the various committees and putting them up on the web site was recommended.
* Only reason to contact them is if there are any changes or they require a decision by the board. Therefore it won’t be necessary to reach out to them each month to have a report. Decisions can be achieved through email communications if the need is more urgent than the formal meeting schedule accommodates.

**Silent auction**

* Silent auction committee is using web site and they are uploading data on to the web site for the silent auction.

**Jamie Soul Memorial Park** –

* Rudy is getting cost estimates for crush from Harfman to bring in to the site, he wants to build up around the campfire area. Any plans for changes to the Park will be discussed with the local Fire Department and FS Committees.

**Bear Aware**

* The Bear Aware Group like the community mailboxes.
* They were taken down in March because they were starting to weather. Ken Wright has been refinishing the boxes.
* It was decided when there was new material needed the boxes will be put up for three weeks.
* Recently the boxes were reloaded with bear aware materials for a month. Then they were taken down. There were complaints by the Bear Aware Group they wanted to keep the box up all they time.
* The decision is that they will be put up for three weeks at a time, and then they will be taken down until there is additional information that needs to be distributed through these boxes. Then they will be put up for another three weeks. This is being done to keep the boxes in good shape and also functions as notice to residents that new info is being put out.

**Fire Smart up date** – see minutes from Alex.

**Encom** – Test went well nothing to report.

**Meeting with Mark Pendergraft**

* See minutes from the meeting that Kathleen provided.
* We need to write a concise letter to the board explaining our position and showing them supporting documents that exists to explain our position.
* The largest pink zones area is in area A. The staff know that the pink zone is inaccurate, but don’t want to change it because they believe the pink zone will be eliminated. The board is three against and six for the eliminating the pink zone on property that has already gone through the sub-division process.
* We need to approach this board to clarify our position and make it clear what we want.
* The pink zone bylaw conflicts with fire smarting.

**QEP Discussion -** **Invasive Species:**

There is a desire by residents to have some practical information that could help inform how individuals might deal with invasive plant species. There is also a desire to connect with other land owners (Provincial Crown, RDOS, Conservation Areas, MoTI) to coordinate abatement activity to ensure any work is effective and not just a single stop-gap effort that quickly gets reseeded by invasive plants.

The local OASIS organization is knowledgeable in the plant world and has mentioned a Provincial Department is drafting legislation to help manage invasive species of all kinds. Kathleen will get in touch with OASIS to discuss providing useful and specific information on the various plant species considered invasive on AM and including some specific actions all land owners can take to reduce/eliminate the spread – working together.

**Financial** – same as last month

**Web Master**

Took off two advertisers put on one new advertiser.

**Membership**

91 members have paid membership. Last year we had 103. Lost 10% of our membership. Jamie has drafted an information item that details what the AMCS does and listing the benefits of membership, given there are a number of property owners in the midst of their construction projects and may need some awareness of the work of the AMCS. Well done Jamie!

**Civic signs**

* all done and paid for thanks to Jim Gray.
* There were13 people who wanted them and have paid for them.

**OME – Conservation area**

* This has been managed through a stewardship agreement. Mark McKinney and Ron Palmer have established this.
* Current Rules have locked out residents from using it for recreation. Lots were sold with the understanding that the conservation land could be used for recreation. Now they have locked the gates to residents due to a desire to use the area for cattle grazing and a concern with the use of ATV’s for recreation, potentially a Fire concern. The AMCS functions as the information provider to AM residents as to the **access rules** established by the OMEI. Both organizations are communicating and collaborating with each other to focus on common issues. Fire Smart practices is an issue important to both organizations.

**Sea can and RV’s** – There was a bulk mailing issued by the RDOS regarding this issue. There was some concern it was not consistent with the specific Bylaw. There are several people with RV’s on their property and they are there for various reasons. Some may be living on their lot for a longer time frame because of a change in their circumstances. Some have been coming to their property each summer for years to address Fire Smart activity on their land, to plan for building their home and to simply enjoy the property they pay taxes on. Every case maybe different. It was also noted that in past years – prior to the recent building activity that some lots were being used as an opportunistic camping site for non-land owners, leaving campfire evidence (some still smoking) and litter such as beer cans.

A call to the RDOS indicated:

* They do not track the number of phone-in complaints;
* They do not know the number of formal submitted complaints;
* They do not know the area the complaints come from

The AMCS is drafting an information/education item for the website to advise owners to avoid the use of wood-burning camp fires and to make arrangements for renting a ‘port-a-potty’ should they feel the need to spend time on their land prior to having a finished home to live in. It is not uncommon for land owners to live in a RV during construction.

Next meeting outside at Jamie’s, the date of the meeting is June 29, 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm