

Minutes of HLPOCA August 2, 2009 Meeting

Board members in attendance: Kevin Davidow, Neil Hannan, Greg Hurley, Kathy Biondo Jablonski, Mary Fox La Brie and Mike Machiski. Excused: Gary Hurley.

President Kevin Davidow called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. He introduced Jim McMaster, president of The Friends of Historic Hulett's Landing, who reported on activities of the community group involved with preserving the history of our area. Headquartered in the old firehouse, they are seeking members and volunteers to help with exhibits and the lending library. The Celtic evening at the Casino attracted over 200 and netted \$800. The children's program on Ft. Ticonderoga was a success. On August 21st a program on "The Knights of Meadow Point" is scheduled at the Mt. Grove Church.

The reading of the July minutes was suspended, but they will be posted on the website.

Kevin thanked all those who cleared out the Frog Pond and thanked Jeremy Linhart, Brendan Meehan, Mike Machiski, and all who made the Black Mt. Point Breakfast such a great success. Proceeds of \$1,000 went to the golf course. He also thanked John, Maria, Bob and Billy Nephew for their efforts on The Day to Remember.

Kevin gave background information on the roads situation, hoping for discussion at this meeting and in the upcoming weeks so a vote can be taken at the Labor Day meeting. Responding to questions about the vote, he explained that a roll call vote will be taken; each house, 80 in all, will have one vote. Absentees will be able to vote by proxy. He noted that not all households are affected in the same way, since some are on the county road, but the Board approach is that the decision of the road takeover, whether by the community or town, be made as a community. He estimated that if all 80 houses committed to have the community take over the roads, the cost would be about \$300 a house, but he noted there would need to be a reserve fund. A civil engineer has inspected the bridge over Foster Brook and found it safe.

The Board gave a breakdown of the pros and cons for having the community vs. the town take over the roads. *Arguments for community takeover:* 1) Autonomy. Community can keep roads private and dictate who can use them. 2) Reversibility. If after taking them over, we decide to give them to the town, we can. If we give them over to the town initially, we cannot retrieve control. *Arguments for town takeover:* 1) Tax money at work. Since we pay taxes for county roads, having the town take over roads will see our taxes at work. 2) Snow plowing. The town plows roads in winter, a benefit to those who use their homes during winter months. Otherwise, those homeowners would have to contract for snow plowing. 3) Avoid community dissention about road maintenance. If the community retained authority for road repair, inevitably, dissention about road repair, condition and upkeep would occur. Also avoided would be added-on costs to meet road emergency repair. 4) Remaining debt for Village Green. The community still has a \$25,000 debt for the Village Green, as well as \$120,000 for renovations, currently being paid for by the Junior Association. Taking on an additional financial burden for the roads is a concern.

Questions about the cost of a community takeover, including expenses for legal costs, surveying, bridge repair, insurance and taxes, elicited much discussion. Kevin estimated \$16,000 for repairs and \$2,000 annual upkeep charges, based on quotes for Jay Van Der Platt. Insurance would run about \$1,400 annually. During the Board's discussion with Town Supervisor Bob Banks, the fact that the town has money in its budget for repairing roads should mean our taxes would not increase. Repairs would be a town expense. Specific questions were raised, such as: What about drainage problems? What roads would be included for repair and plowing? Would everyone be expected to participate in cost, even those living on county road? Would HLPOCA dues be increased? Agreement was that more facts, especially in regard to costs, are needed to make an informed decision. The Board promised to investigate further and send a report out to the membership before Labor Day.

The delta at the end of Foster Brook is scheduled to be dredged after Labor Day, with work to be completed by October 15th. Sand will be dredged 50 feet out and 50 feet to the right and left and deposited in the sand pit. The community dock will be removed and then replaced. Some boats will be moved. Patrick Gorman will serve as community liaison with the LGA and the engineering firm.

T-shirts with Hulett's logo are for sale for \$10 at the county beach lifeguard house.

Lynn King showed a gas tank, butane starter and firewood, all removed from the summerhouse. She described the huge fire pit and expressed great concern about what the community is doing about the youngsters who congregate there and the potential hazard that exists. A motion to remove the fire pit was made and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Fredrick
Recording Secretary