

Minutes of the AOTB Board of Directors Meeting 13 September 2011, Hillsmere Library

In attendance:

Board Members--

Marc Apter (0); Alison Buckler (1); Wilma Coble (0); Katie Jereza (1); Ed Johnson (1); Mike Lord (0); Roxanne Veal (0).

Officers--

Andy Grannell, President; Dave Delia, Secretary.

Residents--

Alan Hinman, Chair Roads Committee; Helene Rodriguez-McConnell, Website coordinator.

Absent Board members: **none**

PreBoard Meeting: Although the AOTB website has been a wonderful resource, Andy requested that he, Helene, Marc and Dave meet at 6:00PM to discuss updating, deletions, and improvements along with other web-based issues. The recommendations from this meeting, which will be passed by Helene to Elvia Thompson, our webmistress, were later reported to the full board. The meeting's main actions included making the home page more current; updating the Pier/Boat ramp information (Andy); updating the leadership, minutes and newsletter archives (Helene through Elvia); updating road repair priority list (Alan); and our Constitution (Mike). Several items that were either redundant, outdated, or no longer germane to POA-AOTB business will be eliminated. The suggestion that we begin an AOTB community service resource directory, to be maintained by Dave, will be brought by Helene to Elvia for construction.

After the pre-meeting, the regular board meeting was held:

1. Quorum achieved (7 of 7 members) and meeting called to order by Board Chair, Marc, at 7:05 PM.
2. Dave asked that the previously circulated minutes from the 09 August 2011 BoD meeting be approved as submitted. Marc called for a vote and the minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **President's Report:** Andy reported that the Newport Pier gate lock issue was again a problem with the current cypher lock damaged. A new keyed-lock system, as recommended by law enforcement and fire

officials, will be investigated (by Andy) and most likely instituted next season. It was suggested that we issue one key per property with lost keys replaced only at a very hefty cost to help insure against indiscriminate, non-property owner use. Marc suggested that the issue be further addressed at a general membership meeting. Although Laura Harty indicated that Debbie Handley had volunteered to take over as chair of the Newport Pier and Redwood Boat Ramp Committee (as Phil and Laura will be moving to New Jersey) no contact has yet been made with Debbie. Andy will attempt to contact Laura to address this issue soon. Andy mentioned that Tim Hamilton had been authorized to continue the phragmites eradication along Walnut Avenue at the creek. Andy further indicated he received a request from our Maryland State Senator, John C. Astle (<http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/05sen/html/msa12160.html>) to address an AOTB membership meeting and/or community event. As an influential senior member of the Maryland legislature, all agreed that meeting with Senator Astle was an opportunity that should not be missed. Marc agreed to contact Senator Astle's office and arrange for a meeting with the board at which a prepared AOTB-specific agenda might be discussed including issues such as power outages and drainage/erosion control. Andy also pointed out an **Annapolis Capital** article (<http://www.hometownannapolis.com/news/TOP/2011/09/04-37/Why-were-the-lights-out-so-long.html>) that identified problems with BGE with respect to AOTB power supplies during weather events. The article identified a potential new resource for AOTB--**the Maryland Office of People's Counsel** (<http://www.opc.state.md.us/>)--a state agency whose mission is to "...represent the interests of residential consumers of electricity, natural gas, telecommunications and private water services in Maryland." Marc agreed to contact their representative Paula M. Carmody (People's Counsel, Office of People's Counsel 410-767-8150 paulac@opc.state.md.us) to set up a meeting with our Board to address our power issues.

4. Since she needed to take care of family issues, Roxanne then addressed the Board about her work on acquiring a variety of AOTB logo T-shirts and ball-caps for sale at the summer party/picnic which had been rescheduled due to Hurricane Irene to 24September2011. In addition to a wide range of attractive colors, Roxanne offered to special order other color combinations at no additional charge. After a lively discussion on pricing of the items, Andy suggested that since Roxanne did all the work, she should have responsibility for sales, and

the board agreed with her suggestion to charge \$17 for S-M-L-XL Ts with an additional \$2 for 2X; ball-caps would be \$13, and a special deal would be offered for combination sales. The proceeds from these sales are intended to partially offset costs of community events that cannot, by law, be funded from tax monies. Roxanne dutifully reminded the board that she expects all members to be “in uniform” at community events to both encourage community spirit as well as to advertise the items. Roxanne was also asked to supply editor Phil Allen with a short article for the PIER deadlined at 18 September. Everyone thanked Roxanne for the quick and efficient service she performed.

5. **Treasurer’s Report:** In Treasurer Becky Morris’ absence, Andy presented the budget report prepared by Becky in her usual efficient manner. All agreed that without her attention to financial detail, nothing much could happen in our community. Andy also mentioned that POA-AOTB was having its yearly audit performed.
6. Marc then reported that the postponed summer party would be held from 3 to 7 PM, Saturday, 24 September with all other things prepared before in effect except for a replacement DJ, which was being looked into. Marc REALLY needs volunteers to serve since Roxanne will be selling shirts and ball-caps all day and Dave will no longer be able to attend due to previous vacation plans.
7. Marc then reviewed a few storm impact issues that may need resolution. First, a large pile of sand along Magnolia near the creek needed to be removed from the community access way by the nearby homeowner who used the sand to fill bags surrounding his property. Vice President John Moses would be contacted to speak with that homeowner. Second, although a county responsibility, in the interests of community safety, POA-AOTB removed a tree from across Narragansett near Redwood and a nearby homeowner asked that the debris be removed from his yard; another homeowner at Cedar and Narragansett and others along the creek had also inquired about AOTB removal of debris from their property. Both Andy and Marc, with the concurrence of the board, generally agreed that our very limited funds should not be spent removing debris from neighbors’ properties and, as with snow removal, our most pressing responsibility--insuring community safety and communication--had been met.
8. As noted above, Andy mentioned the results of the pre-meeting discussions about AOTB website updating

9. Dave presented Phil's pleas for PIER articles and the Board agreed that the next issue of the PIER should deadline at 18 September in order to be published prior to the 24 September hurricane-delayed summer picnic.
10. Alison indicated progress on the paper street clearing and mulch projects and that work would be performed to fix certain issues already indicated, including a felled tree along the Cedar path and an upturned weed barrier near Oak.
11. Alan reported that the current drafting site situation was still waiting on the hurricane-delayed landscapers report for the positioning of 14 trees and 42 bushes. That plan needed to be filed with the county and state before work could commence on the drafting sites. Alan also mentioned that the work on the road near Hollywood and the Bay, the replacement drainage pipe to alleviate the proximal homeowners' flooding issues, and the permitting process both would require, would commence as soon as the drafting site in that area had been settled so that new work was not performed twice.
12. Andy reported, in Julie's absence, that Phil Jones (from Biohabitats) had been spotted around the neighborhood inspecting our drainage patterns during the recent heavy rainfall events.
13. Marc called for any additional discussion items and since none were raised, he moved for adjournment at 8:40PM with all in favor.
14. Recorded by David J. Delia, Secretary, POA-AOTB.