

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HILL

JULY 2007 EDITION
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Web Page: sprucehillfarms.org

SPRUCE HILL FARMS, POA
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OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2007-08

Following the Annual Meeting on June 9th, the Board held a meeting to elect the following officers for 2007-08:

President, John DeLisa
VP, Richard Bubb

The other Directors and their responsibilities for the same period are:

Recreation Chairman, Mike Aleksich
Roads Chairman, Grover Cleveland
WEB Master, Peter Ruggiero
Insurance Contact, Richard Bubb
Civic Liaison, Gloria Brady
Co-Corresponding Secretary, Eileen O'Toole & Susan Gebase
Recording Secretary, Frank A. Young

Non-Director appointments made at the meeting are:

Treasurer/Bookkeeper, Wendy Robinson
Financial Secretary, Robert G. Boone

Annual Meeting Highlights

SPRUCE DRIVE

Your President reported on the lawsuit surrounding Spruce Drive. Due to the population increase in our development and the concern for the safety of our homeowners, the Board elected to make Spruce Drive, the road by the pond, accessible to all, including emergency vehicles. Arlene Greene, who is a non-member of the association living on the west corner of Spruce Drive and Lake Road (which is a town road) sued us to prevent us from removing the dirt which was on the road, and also tried to take adverse possession of our property known as Spruce Drive.

Without going into great detail, the law suit was addressed by our attorneys and the road has been made available for your use.

OUR ADJACENT NEIGHBOR

Potential developers of the 70 acre parcel to our immediate west (the land adjacent to the lots on Cedar Lane), want to subdivide that acreage into 26 building lots. We believe they are having a problem with their plans because the only access to the property is from a narrow road off Upper Seese Hill Road and Barrett Township now requires 2 entrances to subdivisions. They contacted the Board and requested access to Birch Road from their property as a second entrance.

The Board reviewed their monetary offer as well as the potential impact this request would have on our lifestyle and decided to reject their offer. As of yet, we have not heard anything more from them. Please forward any comments you may have on this matter to the Board at the address shown above.

SECURITY SYSTEM

As reported at the meeting, the Board of Directors is looking into a security system for the pool area as there have been reported violations which will ultimately affect our insurance coverage. Unfortunately, the blatant disregard of a *few* will cost the *majority* in our efforts to maintain a safe environment for all.

MEMBER IDENTIFICATION TAGS

The Board is also planning to have a “tag” identification system in place shortly. These tags will identify home/lot owners/tenants so the lifeguards will know who is eligible to use the facilities. By the time you read this, if you have not paid your dues, you will be considered delinquent and unable to use the pool. This identification will also serve to keep non-residents of our community from using the pool unless they are accompanied by a home/lot owner/tenant.

ROADS

Our roads chairman, Grover Cleveland, reported that we have contracted to have our entrance repaired and sealed, and to extend the blacktop into the corners of Hemlock Way and Birch Road. The plan is to do a portion of our roads each year until they are all covered in blacktop. Potholes will continue to be filled in each year and necessary retrenching will be done in preparation for this future road paving.

Also, there are plans to improve the access to the pond to supply water to the fire department in an emergency. This will be done by re-enforcing the access to the pond or by the use of a hydrant.

FALLEN TREES AND OTHER DEBRIS

The past several ice storms have caused many weak branches and even whole trees to fall within our community. This, coupled with the efforts of the electric company to clear their wires, has resulted in the creation of piles of debris that are an eyesore and need to be addressed.

The Board has begun to clean up the public areas around the pool and would like all homeowners to take responsibility for their own property. Particular emphasis should be put on the area inside 25 feet from the center of the road. Fallen debris impedes the flow of water in the drainage ditches and diverts it into the roadway itself causing additional erosion of an already fragile roadway.

If you do not have the equipment to clean up your lot yourself, please contact the Board and they will provide you with several names of contractors who will help you. Good logs can be cut up for your fireplace and rotten wood can be put into mulch. It only takes a little effort and expense on your part to help keep our community looking rural - not sloppy. Please do your part to help in this effort.

SPRUCE HILL SPRUCE UP!

We would appreciate your continued efforts to keep your property and our roadways free of litter. Many of you take walks for your health - so take a walk for yourself, and then take another “cool down” walk for the community by carrying a plastic bag and picking up any trash you see.

Help keep our woods clean - don't assume someone else will! ***If You See it - Pick it Up!***

If you would like to be a part of our designated community litter walks, please e-mail Evelyn Tuths at ejtuths@aol.com. and volunteer. Evelyn has kindly offered to continue to be head of this effort. Please give her your support.

Potpourri Page

NOISE POLLUTION

The Board continues to receive numerous complaints by residents regarding the noise generated by the use of ATV's and other unlicensed vehicles in our community. Homeowners buying into this development enjoy the rural atmosphere, and the sounds they expect to hear are birds chirping, frogs croaking, and geese honking. This has been rudely interrupted by the din of motors from ATV's and motorbikes.

Please be advised that we do have rules and regulations against the use of these vehicles in the development and the Board will be required to take action if the offending homeowners do not govern themselves and their children.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

Visit our new website for information pertaining to our community. Our webmaster is working hard to update pertinent information as it becomes available to him.

Here you will also find copies of our Rules and Regulations, our By-Laws, dates for upcoming activities, links to other web sites and much, much more.

Future plans include publishing Minutes of our Annual Meeting and the most recent copy of our Newsletter.

Visit sprucehillfarms.org

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Lake View property on Spruce Drive, Lot 102, is for sale. It is 1.55 acres, never per-checked and the asking price is: \$48,800. All bids welcome. Contact Frank E. Rose: 517-750-3442

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

For summer or winter storms, use the following guide to help you through these storms. We have put together a short list of things to consider when a storm is predicted:

- * *Stock enough food, water, and medicine for 3 days without power.*
- * *Fill used milk jugs with drinking water.*
- * *Fill the tub with water so you can use a bucket to flush off the toilet.*
- * *Know where your shut off valves are for utilities such as gas, electric & water.*
- * *A camp stove, a lantern, candles, matches, and/or a flashlight with batteries as well as a fire extinguisher is important.*
- * *A transistor radio and a cell phone*
- * *Sign up for the "We Care" program with the Barrett Township Police Department by calling 595-3476.*

KNOCK KNOCK FOR 911

Township Reps have been and may continue to knock on your door for a county wide readdressing project which will help emergency responders find your home when you call for help. Since PO Boxes and RR addresses are of little value to the 911 dispatcher, we will all need to have a physical street address for our residence which will help locate you. If you desire additional information on this, please contact Barrett Township at 595-2602.

BARRETT AMBULANCE AUXILIARY

Call Audrey at 595-2249 or Jane at 595-2488 if you have household items or small furniture to donate for their flea market season.

BARRETT TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AUCTION

Saturday, August 18, 2007, Route 191 Mountainhome, PA.

Date Set For Annual Meeting in 2008
2nd Saturday in June

June 14, 2008

Splashes From The Pool

Lifeguards are on duty and the pool and picnic area has been spruced up. The pump-house has been rewired and repairs were already made on the pavilion surround. Still needed are volunteers to help repair the bar-B-Q pit. Anyone with knowledge of pointing stone, please volunteer by calling the office. ... Help us help you to make our Recreation Area *the* meeting place to be this summer.

MEMBER IDENTIFICATION AT THE POOL

Due to the recent population explosion in our development, and in an effort to keep your pool private for you and your guests, it was discussed and agreed upon by the members at the Annual Meeting that some sort of identification is needed. The board discussed several methods of identification and has decided on the use of a pool "tag" that will identify your family for the lifeguards. These will be distributed to home and lot owners in good standing. You will be required to surrender your tag to the lifeguard upon entering the pool area.

POOL HOURS: Sunday through Saturday 12 Noon to 7 PM (weather permitting)

All children less than 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. A complete listing of Pool Regulations is on the bulletin board at the pool and on our website.

Remember, however, WHEN THE GATE IS CLOSED...THE POOL IS CLOSED

'Getting to Know You Party'

Date: August 11, 2007

Time: 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Our Recreation Chairman, Mike Aleksich and home owner, Bob Turcotte, have volunteered to co-chair a committee for our 2nd Annual 'Getting to Know You Party'. They need people to set up, clean up, purchase food, help with games, etc.

If you can help them in any way or would like to be part of this committee, please contact Mike at 570-595-3544 or email him at: aleksich@ptdprolog.net.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK - VOLUNTEER YOUR HELP NOW!!

REMEMBER: NOTHING WORKS UNLESS YOU DO !