

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held at 10:30 AM on May 16, 2009 at Pickens County Library, 100 Library Lane, Jasper, Georgia 30143. President Anita Jolly called the meeting to order at 10:35 and welcomed everyone. Secretary Bonnie Lovejoy certified that there was a quorum, with attendees representing 22 lots (20 of them Member Lots) and 19 proxies. Anita indicated that minutes and financial records for the year were available for review on the side table.

Anita announced that she is completing her fourth year on the board and expressed her appreciation for the volunteers who work so tirelessly for the Association. She thanked John Edwards and Clayton Preble for getting a fire station for the mountain area, reminding everyone that we still need contributions to help fund the station. She thanked Tim Lambert for instituting our Neighborhood Watch program. Anita added thanks to Kris Lovejoy, Dennis Leath, Mike Jolly and Mike Wimberley for their many volunteer hours maintaining the roads and roadsides. She thanked Susan Catton for producing the "Sassafras Leaves" newsletters, as well as each of the other board members for their countless hours of service to the community. She urged other owners to join in the volunteer efforts of the neighborhood.

Regarding legal matters, Anita stated that one lawsuit has been settled, and the 2 others have been joined together and await a ruling by Superior Court Judge Harry Doss. Therefore, our legal expenses have been high for the year. When legal money must come from the road improvement money, it hurts the roads.

Anita announced the slate of nominees for the board election, to serve 2-year terms: Jeff Kirves, Mark Buchheim, and Patrick Davis. Each nominee spoke briefly to introduce himself. Anita called for nominations from the floor; none being heard, a motion to close nominations was made, seconded and approved. Each member (owner of a lot that has been submitted to Additional Covenants) cast a ballot for board nominees and the ballots were collected and counted. Anita said that continuing board members are Mike Moran, Bonnie Lovejoy and Tim Lambert.

Road Committee Chairman Dennis Leath gave a report of the roadwork that has been done this year including centerline paint and reflectors, mowing, ditch work and plantings. Next week he expects paving to be done on the top part of Lower Sassafras Pkwy., that having been selected in order to balance the quantity of work that has been completed on the other half of the subdivision. Dennis explained the proposed road budget for the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

Herman Clark, attorney for the Association, announced results of the voting. All three nominees were elected.

Clayton Preble gave the Treasurer's report, saying that we have \$71,635.65 in checking and saving. He said the greatest area of deviation from the budget was for legal expenses, \$9,933. He chose not to announce the persons who caused the expense, but stated that the records were available at the table at the side of the room. Lee Gaddis asked what kinds of matters caused the legal expenses. Herman Clark explained that one action was

brought by the Association against an owner whose building was close to the road. The matter was settled “on the courthouse steps”, but dragged on with follow-up paperwork until it was finally concluded this month. He said the owner had to produce a release in case anyone were to slide from the road into the building. The other 2 cases are by owners who have brought suits against SMEPOA and some individual board members personally. Part of that expense had to be covered by SMEPOA, while our State Farm Insurance is covering the bulk of it. We have requested a ruling by the Superior Court Judge, and have been waiting for a judgment for nearly a year.

Neighborhood Watch Chairman Tim Lambert explained the safety plan, using captains for communication among property owners. Tim has developed and implemented the plan.

Herman Clark announced that the budgets passed unanimously.

Firewise Chairman John Edwards explained the non-profit Wildcat Community, Inc., which has developed the new fire station on Monument Road, in cooperation with both Dawson and Pickens counties. The land was donated by Vanguard, a cell tower company. He said that Clayton Preble is president of Wildcat, which is comprised of Sassafras Mountain Estates and 8 other neighborhoods in the Burnt Mountain area. John spoke about the dangers of wildfire in the wildland setting, and explained how to create a defensible (cleared) space around the home to reduce the risk of fire. He presented a slideshow and offered booklets to everyone. He had photos of the new fire station and the adjacent 45,000-gallon water tank. The 9 neighborhoods that are members of the Wildcat Community have contributed \$42,000 toward the completion of the station. John offered a form for further contributions, and said to contact him to make a donation toward the electric, plumbing, interior, etc. Also, volunteers are needed for the station; volunteers can fill support needs, not just fight fires.

Q and A: Mike Jolly asked Herman Clark about some neighborhoods which he understands have roads that have been taken over by their county. Mr. Clark said that if we lose the lawsuits, we need an alternate plan and discussed some possibilities. Clayton said that he has met with both Dawson and Pickens counties and that they have looked at our roads and were pleased with our progress over the years that we have cared for them. Clayton said that a plan exists which would provide that the control of our roads would be relinquished to the county and the county would maintain them and then tax each owner accordingly. It is anticipated that such a plan may cost considerably more than we assess ourselves.

Anita closed the meeting by stating that Clayton Preble, Susan Catton and she are retiring from the board. She thanked those who have served and also those who will continue serving our neighborhood. The board and everyone expressed thanks to Anita for her service as Treasurer and as President.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 PM.
Submitted by Bonnie Lovejoy, Secretary