**ARCO NEWSLETTER**

**January 13, 2024**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

President – Dale Gilman (802)-249-0655

Vice President – Kent Koptiuch (802)-233-4423

Treasurer – Brad Lockwood

Secretary – Sandra Reynolds (802)-868-7385

Road Commissioner - Patrick Ryan (802) 334-5277

Director – Greg Donahue

Vermont State Police, Derby - 802 334-8881 or call 911

Sheriff - Trevor Colby 802 676-3500

Border Patrol – 800 689-3362 24/7

Customs Point of Entry – Norton, VT 24/7 or call 911

Facebook - Averill Recreational Camp Owners, Inc

ARCO Website – [www.arcoinc.org](http://www.arcoinc.org)

The ARCO Board of Directors Meeting was held at 104 Loop Road on January 13, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Dale Gilman at 10:00 AM. There were 6 board members present, including Dale Gilman via MS Teams, Patrick Ryan via MS Teams, Brad Lockwood, Greg Donahue, and Sandra Reynolds. ARCO members in attendance also included Julie Brochu, Susan Graves, and Tim Cowan via MS Teams.

Business began with a presentation to the board given by Susan Gressor, from Averill Lakes Association (ALA) proposing a Vermont Public Access Greeter Program on Little Averill Lake to prevent aquatic invasive species and educate lake visitors about them. During the presentation Susan discussed the greeter program, providing highlights and accomplishments done on Big Averill Lake in 2023, seeking permission from ARCO for a similar program on Little Averill Lake for 2024. Susan indicated greeters will:

* Educate those using watercrafts about the spread and prevention aquatic invasive species,
* Inspect watercrafts of various types, and
* Intercept, record, and remove organisms from watercrafts.

After the presentation Greg Donahue inquired about a wash station, specifically who would pay for it and asked about the benefits of such a program. Susan indicated it would be funded by the state of Vermont. Patrick Ryan asked about the fund/grant, specifically how long it lasts, the costs ALA incurred on Big Averill and how much the grant was for. Susan stated the greeter program would be at no cost to ARCO members and the grant was for $7,000. At 10:27, Susan Gressor exited the meeting.

Official ARCO business began with a discussion about the pros and cons of the greeter program. Brad Lockwood made a motion to accept giving ALA permission to set up the greeter program, Patrick Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next, Greg Donahue made a motion to accept the meeting agenda; Brad Lockwood seconded. Motion carried.

**Secretary’s Report - Sandra Reynolds**

The updated September 2023 Board of Directors meeting minutes and the October 2023 Board of Directors meeting minutes have been sent out to the ARCO community. There have been address updates, of which changes are continuing to be updated on the master list. Individuals will continue to be contacted to ensure the list remains current.

MS Teams invites from the October meeting proved successful. As such invitations will go out to the ARCO community for each meeting moving forward to promote transparency and inclusion.

On November 16, 2023, a Registered Agent Change ($25) and a Business Amendment ($25) totaling $50 were successfully submitted to the Secretary of State by Secretary. Receipts will be sent to the ARCO Treasurer for reimbursement.

The ARCO website and Facebook pages have been recently updated and will be routinely updated. Thank you to ARCO members who provided pictures. The updates have proven successful. ARCO received a request on the ARCO website. Dustin Austin submitted a request via the contact form on the ARCO website, seeking to obtain a permit to park at the private beach to partake in “catch and release” ice fishing with his son and daughter. He indicated he would offer a donation, if needed. He walks from the boat access to the other side. His contact information is as follows: dustinaustin96@icloud.com; 802-473-6474. Secretary responded, indicating the request would be proposed to the board for discussion before providing a definitive response.

Brad Lockwood made a motion to accept the Secretary’s Report; Greg Donahue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report – Brad Lockwood**

All annual assessments have been mailed. As of January 13, 2024, all but one assessment has been received.

The treasurer pulled reports through December. ARCO accounts are in good standing.

Checks were written to:

* Cunningham for plowing - $9,250.00,
* Rancourt - $400.00
* Forestry Assessment - $400.00
* Insurance - $2,097.00, and
* Quick Books Pro 17 and a new HP just under $500.00

Greg Donahue made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. Patrick Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dale Gilman commended Brad Lockwood for doing such a good job in a difficult position with the board.

**Road Report – Patrick Ryan**

Half of the snowplow payment went out to Cunningham. There hasn’t been a ton of plowing this year because of the weather.

Cunningham did his first plow of the season without a contract in place, though it is now. Contract bids need to go out earlier to prevent this moving forward. ARCO should reach out to people earlier in the year, possibly on Facebook, Online, or Newport daily to get the word out.

Potholes, overall, are in good condition. Things are going well, and coordination is good. The roads have been sanded once thus far.

There were a few trees down, which Fletcher removed.

This season has seen significant amounts of rain, but everything is holding up. There are a few culvert issues (one is too small), though nothing can be done until Spring.

An invoice will be sent to Brad Lockwood for plowing.

Sandra Reynolds made a motion to approve the road report; Brad Lockwood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dale Gilman reiterated that Patrick has done a great job as Road Commissioner and reacted well to what members want. Patrick works collaboratively with Laurent Rancourt and Cunninghan to ensure road maintenance has been cost effective.

**OLD BUSINESS –**

**Sign Construction and Sign Language**

Dale Gilman indicated the new sign is up. Discussion commenced with a decision to include, but not limited to, the following information:

* ARCO Welcome
* Private Property Warning
* Speed Limit Warning
* Emphasis about beach use is only by permission
* Website
* Emergency contact info such as Sherriff telephone, emergency telephone etc.

**Averill Boat Launch Lease with State**

Kent Koptiuch was not in attendance at the January 13, 2024, meeting to discuss Averill Boat Launch Lease. Discussion is tabled for a future meeting.

**Update on the Land Vest Sustainable Harvesting and Common Lands Management Proposal, Discussion, Decision**

At the September 2023 board meeting, ARCO BODs approved LandVest’s contract. ARCO is all set to go with LandVest, the association is simply waiting for the contract.

Dale Gilmam indicated LandVest will take an inventory of lumber and work to get ARCO into land use. If we don’t proceed with cuts, we jeopardize the land use program, which would stop any taxpayer reductions. The deadline is September 3, 2024, but until a plan is in place, there isn’t much ARCO can do. If a plan is in place by the deadline, members likely won’t see a reduction in taxes until 2025.

**Purchase of Approved Outgoing Board Member Recognition**At the September 2023, board meeting, Dale Gilman suggested recognizing outgoing board members for their service to the ARCO community with a gift certificate in the amount of $100 per person as a thank you for acting on ARCO’s behalf, which was approved. However, the allocated $600 may not prove feasible without tax implications.

Greg Donahue researched and found no tax implications would be incurred: it can be a write-off for ARCO.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Computer – Greg Donahue made a motion to purchase a computer specifically designated for the ARCO Secretary under $650. Patrick Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Comments and Announcements**To ensure ARCO membership information is current, please reach out to the ARCO Secretary to update your contact information and include updated addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers. Again, several ARCO members do not receive information pertaining to ARCO business because the email addresses are incorrect. With camp owner turnover, it’s imperative you update your information for inclusion. Sandra Reynolds will continue reaching out folks for updated information.

**ARCO Member Forum**

Dale Gilman opened the forum to non-board members for questions or comments. Julie Brochu wanted to know why it is taking so long for the boat launch lease with the state. With Kent absent, the topic is tabled until the next meeting.

Tim Cowan thanked the board members for the work they do.

Susan Graves had no questions and indicated she was just tuning in to listen.

All non-board members indicated they appreciated being afforded the opportunity to attend the board meeting and felt they were able to engage more now that they can attend via MS Teams.

**Dates of Next Board Meetings**Upcoming board meetings will be held the second Saturday of each quarter to include the following, locations to be determined:

* April 13, 2024 – MS Teams
* July 13, 2024 – Place TBD
* August 3, 2024 (Annual Meeting, In-person attendance is required.)

**Adjournment**

Greg Donahue made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 am. Brad Lockwood seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.

***As a reminder, paper copies of meeting minutes are no longer being mailed. All minutes are sent via email and are posted on the ARCO website. If you wish to receive minutes by email, please contact the ARCO Secretary.***