**ARCO NEWSLETTER**

**October 14, 2023**

**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 196 Loop Road on October 14, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President Dale Gilman at 10:01 AM. There were 6 board members present, including Dale Gilman, Kent Koptiuch via MS Teams, Patrick Ryan, Brad Lockwood, Greg Donahue, and Sandra Reynolds. ARCO members in attendance also included Julie Brochu and Rick MacDonald, via MS Teams. Business began with an acceptance of the agenda. Greg Donahue made a motion to accept edits; Patrick Ryan seconded the motion.

Sandra indicated some edits needed to be made to the September 2, 2023, Board of Directors Meetings. Greg Donahue made a motion to accept edits; Patrick Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried. The updated meeting minutes will be made and provided to ARCO members.

Officers for the 2023-2024 year were named to include Dale Gilman, President; Kent Koptiuch, Vice President; Brad Lockwood, Treasurer; Sandra Reynolds, Secretary; Patrick Ryan, Road Commissioner; and Greg Donahue, Director.

**Secretary’s Report - Sandra Reynolds**

The September 2023 Board of Directors meeting minutes have been sent out to the ARCO community. Edits have been made and will be sent out with the October 14, 2023, Board of Director’s meeting minutes. There have been a few address updates that have been received of which those changes will be made in the master customer list. Individuals will be contacted to ensure the list is current.

Zoom and MS Teams have been researched to determine the best value for ARCO community. Both have annual fees. To accommodate the numbers in the ARCO community, both Zoom and MS Teams have per user fees; both are over $1000 per user. We can get around that with MS Teams with a one-person user for $150 annually. The individual can send invitations to the entire community where users can join meetings via the web. The October 2023 and January 2024 meeting will be pilots for using MS Teams. An invitation went out to members who replied to the notice. An invitation will be sent to all ARCO members for the upcoming January 2024 meeting. The pilot at the October 14, 2023, meeting went well. Kent stated it made sense to continue using MS Teams.

There were complaints that when folks went down to enjoy the beach, boats were moored right out in the front of the beach, forcing individuals to go way out to the right to enjoy the water. With very little beach access, the individuals wanted to know if folks could secure boats farther to the left so people could swim and enjoy the water and beach without moving around the boats.

If you have had a change in address, phone number, email, etc., please contact the ARCO secretary with your updated information. Doing so ensures important ARCO information gets to each member timely. As a reminder, meeting minutes and other ARCO related documents are no longer sent via the postal service, they are emailed and posted on the ARCO website. So, if you want to receive newsletters and meeting minutes in your inbox, please be sure the Board has your email address.

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 October 13, 2023, 99 have been received, totaling $39,600, which have been deposited into ARCOs account. $16,400 remains outstanding, but are filtering in.

August bank accounts were accessible, reports with exact amounts will be provided at the January 13, 2024, Board meeting.

Checks were written to Dale Gilman for postage for mailing annual assessments, and to Vermont Forestry Associates.

Issues with Quick Books Pro 17 and the inability to backup ARCO information onto a flash drive resulted in fees for a flash drive, diagnosis, and stamps totaling approximately $30 that have not been reimbursed.

There following invoices remain outstanding:

* Sheriff for last summer totaling $150, and
* News and Sentinel for $75 to advertise for Plow bids.

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

Dale Gilman noted that Brad Lockwood took on a difficult position with the board, especially when annual assessments were going out, and is doing a fabulous job.

**Road Report – Patrick Ryan**

Snowplow bids went out in September. To date, no bids have been returned. Information was sent to Cunningham’s, with no response thus far.

The last grading was on Labor Day up to the first turnout.

Patrick noticed a culvert head was off and will check it out.

Laurent Rancourt inquired about an old stump dump and asked if he could dump stumps. He is being redirected to call Fletcher to avoid starting precedent and prevent unwanted dumping. to get another grade from the first clearing just after the Bates Road.

Laurent Rancourt will send Patrick an invoice, which he will forward to the board.

All culverts appear to be working. Brad Lockwood motioned to approve the road report; Greg Donahue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

**OLD BUSINESS – Sandra Reynolds**

**Sign Construction and Sign Language**

Dale Gilman indicated John and Kim Lampert have the equipment to install the new sign. A new board sign will be installed. 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.

Dale Gilman opened the forum to non-board members for questions or comments. Julie Brochu inquired about posting a recommended speed limit. Rick MacDonald noted enforcement of speed limit would be tough. Further discussion noted that because the roads are all accessible, they fall under State provisions.

**Averill Boat Launch Lease with State**

At the annual meeting the board suggested raising the fee charged to Vermont Fish and Wildlife to use our access to Little Averill Lake from $1000.00 to $2000.00. The State indicated they required a lease for anything over $1,000. At the annual meeting, members voted down increasing the fee to $1,000. The State presented a contract at $1,000 for 20 years.

At the September Board meeting, Dale Gilman suggested we pursue a contract that protects ARCO and suggested a 1-year simple contract be considered. Kent Koptiuch agreed, indicating a 20-year contract was not in ARCO’s best interest as an association. Brad Lockwood suggested Kent Koptiuch draw up a simple contract for review, given his background.

On October 14, 2023, Kent Koptiuch noted he was still working on addressing liability issues to include language that protects ARCO. The State contract included a 20-year term versus 1 year, which will not fit. The language should also provide what members want.

Dale Gilman opened the floor to non-board members for comments or questions. Rick MacDonald asked if the language included verbiage as support or a donation, it would be feasible. Further investigation into Vermont Statutes Title 12 Court Procedure Chapter 203 LIMITATIONS ON LANDOWNER LIABILITY § 5794 Landowner protection was suggested.

Discussion is tabled until the meeting on January 13, 2024.

**Update on the 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.

**Review of ZOOM/MS TEAMS Account for ARCO**

An MS Teams account will be set up by Sandra Reynolds. The annual fee is well under the approved $500 at $150 annually for one user, with the ability to invite up to 300 participants. Sandra will maintain the account on ARCO’s behalf.

**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.

Topic is tabled. Greg Donahue will research what tax implications may be incurred prior to the disbursement of funds. to ensure

**2023-2024 Plowing Contracts**Plowing contracts will likely be the same as last year. Patrick Ryan is currently waiting for bids to cover the upcoming winter season.

**Comments and Announcements**Please reach out to the ARCO Secretary to update your contact information, to include updated email addresses. Several ARCO members did not receive information pertaining to ARCO business because the email address was incorrect, or they were unreachable. With camp owner turnover, it’s important to update information annually. Sandra Reynolds will be reaching out to those whose information was “undeliverable,” via telephone or mail.

Additionally, because of camp owner turnover, Dale Gilman suggested new annual/multi-year ARCO window decals should go out to camp owners to include 4 per camp. It is important you place these in your windows to avoid having your vehicle towed, particularly during beach season. ARCO is attempting to enforce this rule to ensure ARCO members have access to parking at the beach, as well as maintain a good alliance with Quimby.

**ARCO Member Forum**

Rick MacDonald indicated that window decals don’t work for all camp owners, specifically those who use rental vehicles or change vehicles often.

Sandra Reynolds suggested placing the decal in a protective shield to be moved from one vehicle to another more easily.

Greg Donahue noted parking problems and beach fires were becoming an issue. Updated signage at the beach was suggested, including a second, lower sign that was more easily visible.

There are rules about clearing shrubs and waterfront cutting because it impacts erosion. The Vermont Shoreland Protection Act (10 V.S.A. 49A) establishes regulations for guiding shoreland development. It applies to activities within 250 feet of the mean water level of all Vermont lakes greater than 10 acres.

Kent Koptiuch suggested a sign board on Jackson Road be placed indicating logging trucks have the right of way.

A computer was requested to be used by ARCO Treasurers to maintain books and store important ARCO information about ARCO accounts. Kent Koptiuch made a motion to purchase an ARCO laptop not to exceed $1,000. Greg Donahue seconded.

Upon further discussion, Kent Koptiuch made a motion to amend the proposal to purchase a computer to include auxiliary hard drive and maintenance not to exceed $1,000. Greg Donahue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rick MacDonald noted he appreciated being included in the board meeting 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:

* January 13, 2024 – Place TBD, more information on location will be provided mid-December
* April 13, 2024 – Place TBD
* July 13, 2024 – Place TBD
* August 3, 2024 (Annual Meeting, In-person attendance is required.)

**Adjournment**

Patrick Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:57. Greg Donahue seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:57.

***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.***