**POPLAR POINT ASSOCIATION**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 3, 2025**  **10:00 AM**  **Playground**

**Attending**

Onno Boswinkel, Peg Connelly, Maybeth Conway, Joseph DiPietro, Annette Dwyer, George  Hagerty , Cindy Hebert, Bob Hirsch, Kevin Hoyle, Fran and Jim Lehman, Steve Lord, Victoria McDonnell, Mary Ann Naddy, Edwin and Barbara Nicholson, Tony Scelsa, Cathy Shippee, Bill Simeone

Steve Lord, president, brought the meeting to order at 10:10AM

**Poplar Point Association Election**

There was a lengthy discussion of association leadership.  Onno Boswinkel chose to give up his seat on the Board.  Bill Simeone offered to fill his position.  All current officers also offered their positions to anyone who would care to take over with no one accepting.  After 20 years of dedicated service, Tony Scelsa was particularly eager to relinquish his duties as treasurer.

In the end, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the current slate of officers for the upcoming year with the addition of Bill Simeone as a member of the Board.

**Secretary’s Report**

Maybeth distributed copies of the minutes from the 9/28/24 meeting.  These minutes were also posted on the website prior to the meeting.  A motion to accept the minutes was approved.

**Treasurer’s Report – Tony Scelsa**

Tony presented the attached copy of the Treasurer’s Report.  He noted that our association finances remain in good shape,   Once again, he attributed our improved financial status largely to Bill Simeone’s playground landscaping services and the success of the Holiday/Christmas party.

Bill gratefully acknowledged his 2024 helper, Mike Pelegrino.  He also reported that he is forming a larger team for this mowing season including Onno, Joe, and Paul Marcaccio.

Last year’s Holiday/Christmas party was again well attended and profitable.  The group praised and thanked Erney Fryberg and Joanne McDermott for their generous hosting.  Victoria McDonnell was also thanked for another successful 50/50 raffle.

Tony reported that there were a number of membership renewals that have not yet been processed.  To lighten his responsibilities, Maybeth and Bill offered to assist Tony by handling the membership renewal process this year.  There was also a suggestion to move to totally online membership renewals in the future.  Tony and Steve will explore this option.

Tony also noted that the check for the fall hay ride had not cleared.  Steve explained that this event was cancelled.  He will inform Julie Bebee, the event organizer, to destroy the check. The next treasurer’s report will reflect this change.

Finally, there was a motion to express deep appreciation for Tony’s twenty years of service as treasurer and accept his amended Treasurer’s Report.  The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

 **A. Sunshine/Membership**

Victoria McDonnell reported that she had reached out to a number of our community members in recent months.  She also welcomed Peg Connelly from Steamboat Avenue to our meeting.

 **B. Playground**

Bob Hirsch reported that he has been busy replacing tether balls.  He and George also noted that a new light for the flagpole will be installed soon.  Joe DiPietro requested that we remediate the rust on the slide by buffing and/or painting.  Steve expressed concern about the health of the tree in the corner of the property.  Bob agreed to trim it for this season.

 **C. Website/IT**

Steve reported that website is up to date with association information.  He encouraged members to send along any relevant activity updates for posting to [www.poplarpointnk.org](http://www.poplarpointnk.org).

**Events**

 **A**. **Spring  Events**

**I.** A **Poplar Point Yard Sale** is scheduled for June 7th with a June 8th rain date.  Mary Ann Naddy and Trish Bourne are organizing this event with assistance from others in our community. Anyone who is interested must sign up on the association Facebook page.  Those who participate are encouraged to contribute a portion of their profits to the association. There will be a $10 town permit fee.  Mary Ann stated that the organizing committee would like help with posters advertising the event.

**II.** The **Start-Of-Summer Cocktail Party** is scheduled for June 21st from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the little beach.  As usual, it’s BYOB and an appetizer to share.

 **B. Summer Events**

**I.** The **North Kingstown 4th of July fireworks display** is scheduled for July 3rd at the town beach.  The rain date is July 5th.  Many in the group expressed their ongoing concerns about the traffic congestion and illegal parking that has occurred for this event and others in the past.  George explained that a number of our group members had met in September with the newly appointed North Kingstown traffic officer who promised to share our concerns and get back to the group.  That never happened so George emailed the traffic officer after Thanksgiving without success.  He will try again and ask for their plans.

**II.** The **Mid-Summer Beach Cocktail Party** is scheduled for July 25th at the usual time and place.

**Other Business – Any Offers/Suggestions**

**A. Right of Way Clearance Across from Playground:** Steve expressed concern about the overgrown right of way path across from the playground on Concord Avenue.  A number of the members checked out the pathway after our meeting and action will be taken.

**B. Request for Bike Jumps at the Playground:**  Steve has received requests to build a bike jump or jumps at the playground.  After discussion, a motion was made and accepted to deny this request due to concerns about accidental injury liability and unwanted litter.

**C. New Business: Pesky Wildlife/Pet Invasion:** We’ve had a population explosion in the neighborhood with the increased appearance of pesky wildlife including coyote, fox, raccoon, and possum, not to mention the rabbits, squirrels, and chipmunks who have long resided here.  Cathy Shippee and others have called animal rescue repeatedly about the larger, more dangerous animals with little success.  There were also concerns expressed about one or more off-leash dogs that threatened other dogs and/or their owners. In particular one aggressive dog twice charged two separate adults walking their leashed dog in a public way. Despite attempts by the affected dog owner to work with the owners of the offending dog, a recommendation was made to have a neighbor reach out to the owners in question to ask for their cooperation in permanently correcting/containing their animal, and to explain that because of a now second known incident, Steve, on behalf of the members assembled and the entire PPA, would write a letter to NK Animal Control to advise the Town “on record” that there have been two aggressive incidents by one dog in the neighborhood.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 AM.

**Next Meeting**
 Our next meeting will be Saturday July 19 at 10:00 AM