

FACA Road Committee Meeting Minutes 08-12-2026

Attendees: Larry Tolner, Patti Pipes, Hank Shultz, Vivian Tolner, Laila Moire-Selvage, Felix De La Cruz, Julia Mitchell, Cristi Fields, Benjamin Dixon, Albert Santiago, Ricky Ishibashi, Chris Bellefeuille

Meeting started at 6:07 PM | Meeting ended at 7:27 PM

Hank: Picked up both lawn mowers; neither are working. The board decided last night to sell both as a package deal and buy a commercial-grade one. We have bids for new ones: Allied Grasshopper 61" for \$13k (52" and 48" options); Bacon for Kubota for \$14k–\$19k for a 54-inch. Farm Services 48" FasTrak is \$11.5k. We get a discount on Allied, and they do repair them. We have miles of mowing, so we need a commercial mower. Steve's Honda has a Scag Mower 52" for \$14k. They would be under warranty because they are brand new, and we would buy them outright.

Albert: Don't buy more than a 48" (\$10,500) because it will hit more rocks that stick up on the shoulders due to the unevenness of the shoulders.

Vivian: That is a lot of distance; they are going to hit rocks. Weed-eating vs. mowing?

Hank: We can run them at a 2" height, but nothing less than 3" would help us avoid hitting rocks.

Patti Pipes: What about painting the high rocks?

Larry: What's broken on the mowers? The transmission?

Cristi: The brake box is out on one, the ignition is rusted through from being left in the rain, and the safety seat is also broken.

Larry: If we ride the mowers from here to the location, we should invest in a small trailer for the mowers to make them last even longer and reduce wear and tear on the mowers.

Hank: We should purchase a small, lightweight trailer or use one of the ones we own to tow it to far spots. We need to buy a new mower ASAP.

Patti: Where will we keep them? In the container where the others are, and maybe move those to another location.

Laila: The new mower needs to be maintained and stored properly.

Hank: I recommend the Grasshopper Model 125V from Allied that's 48" for \$10,500 (810 lbs).

Larry: Can we use a trailer here? A truck pulling a trailer insures the trailer.

Cristi: The trailer cost for a 5x8 is \$1,100, and a 5x10 is \$2,000. A smaller trailer needs ramps. We could put the large trailer up for sale and use the proceeds to pay back for the lawn mower.

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Felix: Let's use the dump trailer for now and hold off on purchasing a new one.

Albert: I used my own trailer for half a year, and it got banged up by Roy, so I took it home.

Hank: The large equipment trailer is up for sale. We will sell the Chevy Silverado and are looking into an insurance claim. For the Dodge: repair the clutch or throwout bearing (est. \$1,200–\$1,300 to fix the truck). We have an appointment for the end of September in Kea'au with Patrick to fix it.

Vivian: How can we sell goods without taking bids?

Hank: For anything over \$1k, we check the market value and then sell; we are a nonprofit. We are also selling the yellow dump truck. The Kubota farm tractor has a hole in the bucket: should we weld it? Cristi is having Abraham weld it. A replacement 66" bucket is \$3k (regular) to \$6k (4-in-one) with Allied. We will fill the leaking tires with sealer. For the heavy-duty walk-behind string mower: we will get the current market value and sell it. The board okayed purchasing a tire.

We currently don't have the funds to pave at this time, but we are hoping to collect fees and sell enough old equipment to pave by the end of the year.

Hank: Chris called, and HELCO unofficially said we can paint pole numbers on poles as long as it doesn't affect climbers (use bright white paint – roof paint is somewhat reflective). It's \$179 per 5-gallon bucket. We can paint every 5 poles, have stencils, and use a roller. Maybe we could use striping paint; it's cheaper. We will test with one gallon and see how that works. We should paint it at eye level from a car. This will be donated time with volunteers to paint it. Should we do horizontal or vertical? Let's do a test and then decide. Chris will try to get a sample to test it.

Albert: Big puddles are filling in and raising them up, making more puddles. We should try digging a hole with drain rock for the puddles to drain.

Chris: The biggest complaint is water puddles in front of people's properties.

Hank: It is not our kuleana to fix natural watercourses, but we try to keep water off the roads and on the shoulders.

Julia/Chris: Stop signs. We need at least 5, and all brackets = \$600, not including shipping. We also have enough street name signs. All agreed.

Laila: We need to fix the uneven humps on the sides for safety. People drive in the middle or on the opposite side to avoid bumps.

Hank: Speeding is also unsafe. Patching holes is ongoing; should we cut them square?

Ricky: We were using a saw, making lips so the compacting would have something to hold onto.

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Julia: Regarding the ad for the road crew; we have a ton of applications, but we still need to go through them. It will take a week or two to get a mower, screen candidates, and interview.

Hank: The Road Committee does the hiring. The Office Manager is screening with the road crew and interviewing. They will send the top 3 for us (the Board Members/Road Committee) to review.

Chris: There is a lot of trash; the road crew needs help. I called in the abandoned cars at the back of Anthurium. Also, the siren is not anyone's property; it is on State of Hawai'i land and more than 100 feet from anyone's property. We got prior approval from the previous board.