



**Board Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2018**

Noting the presence of a quorum of the board members, the meeting was called to order by Russ Simpkins at 7:390pm.

Board Members Present: Russ Simpkins, Anthony DePalma, Tate Elliott, Jay Hurley and Rob Brakeman

Open Comment period: Russ welcomed Jay Hurley to the Board and provided an overview of board positions and operations.

The board approved the purchase of 6 new park benches to be placed on greens throughout the neighborhood. Total cost will be \$3,450 (including shipping and sales tax). The order will be placed in April once the weather improves.

Board Member Presentations:

SEPTIC: *Russ Simpkins*

There have been no significant septic issues. Russ will be reaching out to Bill Waite (of Wind River) to look at a possible issue with a cap.

STREETS: *Rob Brakeman*

There are 2 lights on the main green (lights on the post that shine on the flag) that are not working. GOFHA is responsible for maintaining those lights (not CL&P). Rob suggested that it may be an electrical issue since it would be a coincidence if both bulbs burned out together. Mike Blake keeps the GOFHA ladder and is generally willing to help with issues like that.

Russ reviewed the street vendors that GOFHA has engaged. He also suggested that we make a count of catch basins that are in people's yards. They were not cleaned last year with the street catch basins because we did not know about them.

There is a resident in the neighborhood who does paving work for a living and has said he would be willing to help assess the sufficiency of the GOFHA street reserve balance compared to the cost of repaving all neighborhood streets.

The issue of the fencing along the front of the property of the homes around the front green was discussed. The current fencing was paid for by the residents around the front green themselves. It was installed over a decade ago by Lowes. Some of the residents along the front green have personally paid to keep the fence in good repair. However, in general, much of the fencing is dirty, broken or missing and is in need of replacement or repair. The Board, this past year, decided that since the entire neighborhood benefited from the attractiveness of the fencing around the front green that the entire neighborhood should pay to replace the fencing. This year the board solicited proposals from several vendors to remove and replace this fencing. Quotes ranging from \$12,553 to \$25,000 were received. A quote for \$12,553 had been discussed at the November 2017 annual meeting and was noted in the annual budget. Unfortunately the vendor who provided the \$12,553 quote went out of business. As such, Rob solicited additional quotes and presented a \$21,897.47 quote from Orange Fencing. Russ moved that the quote be accepted by the board. Anthony seconded the motion. The board unanimously accepted this quote. Russ noted that the quote included sales tax (from which GOFHA should be exempt). The board also voted to authorize Rob to hire Orange fencing to reinforce a number of posts (at \$80 per post) that are most at risk from snow plow damage as well as to purchase replacement slats for the fence.

Russ remind us that the fence contractor should provide a Certificate of Insurance, obtain ARB approval and pull a permit from the town prior to beginning work.

Rob will speak with Lou Anthony (who does the snow plowing in the neighborhood) that he will be responsible for any damage he does to the new fence after it is installed.

Rob discussed the Streets Committee he has put together. The committee consists of the following residents: Patrick Egan, Ryan Cassidy, Don Sochol, Jay Hurley and Rob Brakemen. The committee met recently and discussed the issue of speeding in the neighborhood. The Committee has decided to attempt to engage the entire neighborhood in the issue by issuing a letter in which they would survey the residents on a number of suggestions as well as solicit new ideas. Rob hoped to distribute the survey along with a letter introducing the board members to the residents and possibly the new phone directory and newsletter.

RULES AND BYLAWS: *Russ Simpkins*

Russ reminded the Board that GOFHA has an attorney and an approved budget for which we can ask him for assistance in interpreting our rules and CT law.

WEBSITE: *Russ Simpkins*

All running appropriately.

LANDSCAPE: *Anthony DePalma*

Anthony said he has been looking at the evergreen trees near the gazebo by the pond and is considering trimming them back and/or taking one down. He is also keeping an eye out for dead ash trees throughout neighborhood.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB): *Brian Lindwall-Thomas*

The members of the ARB are Alison Hong, Kim Drossos and Christine Whittenhauer. Russ reviewed the operation of ARB and the new guidelines that were passed at the November 2017 Annual Meeting. The idea of adding additional members to the ARB was discussed.

FINANCE: Tate Elliott

Tate presented the Dec 2017 financial statements and noted that the tax information has been dropped off with the accountant for preparation of GOFHA's 2017 tax return.

Old Business:

Felicia Mancuso has offered to prepare the newsletter. Anne Brakeman and Tiffany Hurley have volunteered to update the phone directory and to distribute the newsletter, directory and Streets Committee survey.

New Business:

The board unanimously approved moving meeting days to Thursdays. The next meeting date was set for Thursday April 19 at 7:30pm. The board then sketched out the following meeting dates for additional board meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the following months:

- June
- September
- October
- November

The board discussed the pros/cons on issuing electronic vs paper directories.

The poor condition (due to accumulation of dirt and mold) of several houses was discussed. Residents storing trash cans outside their garage (or outside an approved structure) continues to be a problem. It was suggested that these issues be noted in the board's spring walk-through and that a list of possible offenders be passed on to ARB to be addressed there.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tate Elliott,
Treasurer