

Annual SMRMA Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2021

Bob Cutlip, SMRMA President, opened the annual meeting with a welcome to all who were in attendance. He provided an overview of the road maintenance as well as the recent problem with graffiti defacing some of the mountain boulders, trees, and a small building.

Following the welcome, Rick Van DeMark, a representative of the Forest Service, presented to the group. He shared that the State Forest Service will provide forestry safety on each individual property if requested by the property owner. He outlined grant programs that are available to help cover the cost of any work on properties and noted that since we are a non-profit association, members are eligible through SMRMA.

Debbie Baldwin, SMRMA Treasurer, then provided the treasurer's report and discussed the scope and cost of the road maintenance to include cost of gravel and road material, equipment maintenance, fuel costs, ongoing weather conditions and fire danger, and Bob's contribution of equipment, insurance, and time. She reiterated the importance of dues to offset these costs and thanked everyone for their generous contributions each year. Following her presentation, Debbie introduced Gene Weimer, SMRMA Vice-President to speak.

Gene discussed several matters including the option to use any excess money generated from the trash removal program to pay for special projects on the mountain. One example is an option to use the existing equipment to provide snow removal when warranted during the winter months. The parameters for this service would be when there is 20" or more of snowpack for at least 3 days. Other examples of how the funds could be used include payment of an extra dumpster or additional pick-up service during the summer months if needed, any expense that might be incurred for tree removal on Spruce Mountain road or graffiti removal should extra product/equipment be needed. The members were in agreement that this would be an appropriate use of funds should the need arise.

Jo Jorgenson, SMRMA Secretary, followed with a discussion of the SMRMA website that is being developed by Jim Wilson, a new property owner on the mountain. Once complete, property owners will have access to Board and Annual Meeting minutes, directory, map, reports, and newsletters. Additionally, there will be an electronic payment option for dues if owners prefer to remit their money electronically rather than by mail. Jo also introduced new members in attendance and mentioned those who were not at the meeting but are new to the mountain. We now have 14 full-time residents and 11 new property owners.

Alan Torvie, Member-At-Large, presented information about the Spruce Mountain Homeowner map and noted that it has been updated to reflect new owners and will be sent by email with the updated directory.

Two more speakers were introduced to share information. Representatives from the Groom Creek Fire Department shared information about more grant opportunities to assist with property clean-up efforts that minimize fire danger. They also noted that individuals who do their own clean-up, raking, tree removal can keep track of their hours, and report them to the Groom Creek Fire Department as an in-kind contribution. There was discussion about the service they provide to anyone in distress on the mountain due to illness, being stranded because of snowpack, etc. They are our emergency contact for ambulance and paramedics or transport off the mountain for other emergencies. Groom Creek Fire Department also offers a free fire-wise assessment of owner's property. Call them directly for this service. For those who bag their own leaves, pine needles and forest debris, they will pick up the bags for \$2/bag if you leave them on the road. Again, make arrangements with them by phone. As a final note, they invited all to attend a party on July 3, 2021 at the fire department to celebrate 50 years in business. They will provide food and drink as a way of saying thank you to the mountain and area community. Mike Valenza, one of our SMRMA members, is serving on the Groom Creek Fire Department Board, and is a great resource for us. The next and final speaker was Doug Whittaker from Farm Bureau Insurance. He provided a wealth of information about opportunities for insurance on the mountain through that company.

The final order of business was the election of new officers. Bob Cutlip ran uncontested for the office of Board President and was re-elected for two more years. Gene Weimer also ran uncontested for the office of Vice-President and was re-elected for an additional two years. Alan Torvie elected to step-down as Member-At-Large and Renee Cutlip ran to fill his seat. There was some discussion about allowing married couples to sit on the Board together, but it is not prohibited in the By-laws and was not pursued further. Pete Kennedy raised his desire to run against Renee for this office, however since he had not stepped forward when the request for nominations was sent to members in May, a call for a vote to accept or decline his self-nomination was held. The majority voted to decline his nomination for inclusion on the ballot. Renee Cutlip was subsequently voted into office. Debbie Baldwin, SMRMA Board Treasurer also elected to retire from her position on the Board. Beth and Mike Zakoesian ran as one for this office and were elected to the position. Beth will handle the finances as part of the duties of Treasurer and Mike will assist with trash bin key dispersal and retrieval, contact with neighbors, etc. They will have one vote on the Board. Debbie Baldwin was recognized for her many years of service on the Board, her generous contribution of time, warm welcomes to new members over the years, and efforts to build community on the mountain.

A prayer of thanks for the Spruce Mountain neighbors and the preparation of the food was given by Gene Weimer, and Bob Cutlip adjourned the meeting for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Jorgenson