

Annual SMRMA Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2022

The annual meeting was opened by Bob Cutlip, SMRMA President. He welcomed all those in attendance and invited them to go through the lunch buffet before he commenced with the agenda. Before the meal, prayer of thanks for the Spruce Mountain neighbors and the preparation of the food was given by Mike Valenza. Once everyone was seated, Bob began with a historic overview of the improvements that have made on Spruce Mountain Road during the last sixteen years. He discussed how each year the road has been widened and improved with the addition of material. The presentation included information about the rising cost of rock, gravel, and dirt, maintenance of equipment, and cost of gasoline. He outlined the organized effort on the part of the Board to make these improvements and the importance of dues donations to accomplish the task. He also noted that grading and maintenance is dependent on weather conditions and fire danger during the spring and summer months.

Following Bob's welcome and road report, he introduced Beth Zakeosian, SMRMA Treasurer, who presented the annual financial report including a breakdown of income and expenses. The report was distributed at the meeting but can also be found online at the smrma.org website for members in good standing. Beth also updated the group on SMRMA's Corporation Commission status as well as the use of Zelle, the alternative to PayPal that will be available for those who want to pay dues electronically. Once the set-up is complete, the mountain neighborhood will receive more information about this. Beth also discussed the Board's decision to post 15 mile per hour signs along Spruce Mountain Road replacing the 20 mile per hour signs previously posted. Jo Jorgenson suggested a sign also be posted on south Ridge Road at the curve to encourage those using that road to slow down when passing homes there. The road is the designated fire exit for the community. It was agreed that a sign be placed there, as well. A group of volunteers will place the signs on October 24th.

As part of new business, Jo Jorgenson, SMRMA Secretary introduced all the new owners on the mountain – a total of fifteen homes have been sold during the last year. One new couple on the mountain, the Shimeks, who are in their home parttime but also rent it as a vacation home, shared their eagerness to be part of our mountain community and their interest in ensuring that their renting guests are being respectful of the surrounding homeowners. To that end, they have encouraged those with any complaints to contact them directly. Their contact information is provided in the directory. There are several homes now being used as vacation rentals. SMRMA is a road association and is limited to matters pertaining the upkeep of the road. For issues about the rentals that cannot be resolved between homeowners, calls may be directed to the Sheriff's office who will then aid if within their jurisdiction and scope. Aaron Cuellar also discussed package delivery by UPS or FedEx. Currently, packages for the mountain neighbors are left in front of the Cuellar home on Spruce Mountain Road because trucks will not deliver beyond that point. Aaron offered to build a shelter for the packages across from their home, so they are protected from the elements. Several members volunteered to help him with the construction of the structure.

In reference to old business, Jo discussed the pending release of the updated directory for fiscal year 2022-2023. She then introduced Jim Wilson who presented information and updates about the SMRMA website. This website provides Association members with access to Board and Annual Meeting minutes, directory, map, reports, and newsletters. Stephen Beal also raised a question about grant opportunities for tree thinning through the Groom Creek Fire District. He will follow-up with them to see if the grants are still available. Mike Valenza also reminded us that he serves on the Groom Creek Fire District Board and will take any concerns we have to his Board meetings on our behalf.

The next order of business was the election of a new officer for the position of Board Secretary. Jo Jorgenson's term was up, and she decided not to run for office again. Beth Zakeosian led the election by asking for a show of hands to elect Jim Wilson as he ran uncontested for the position. He was subsequently elected for the 2-year term and Jo was thanked for her contribution to the Board.

Before closing, upcoming events and dates were announced. The Chili Cook-off will be at the Cutlips on October 15th; the Over and Above Brunch will be at the Zakeosians on October 22nd; and Friendsgiving will be at the Jorgenson-Torvie's on November 5th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Jorgenson