

## MINUTES

### WALDEN WOODS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

### WALDEN WOODS MEETING HOUSE

APRIL 19, 2017

**Call to order:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joe Palladino at 7 PM.

**Roll call:** Joe Palladino, Marlene Towers, Lynn Fitzgerald were present.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Village Council minutes of the November meeting have still not been as written.

**Financials:** At the present time, the Council is under budget for snow removal. The reserves are on target. Because some landscaping projects were done ahead of the Spring schedule, that line item on the budget will appear as being over budget. This should even out over the next budget cycle. All information was presented by Chairman, Joe Palladino.

The practice of presenting both the Old Business and New Business portions of the meeting prior to the Owner's Forum was continued for this meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

1. Continued discussion of use of stone vs. mulch at selected sites along fences on the Knoll. Members of the Council toured the affected areas on April 7 with Mark Stupcenski of Russo Landscaping and received some examples of the stone to be used which were displayed at the meeting. It was estimated that savings recovered from the use of stone over mulch would be realized over roughly 7 years or 3.6 mulching cycles. The use of stones would be budgeted out of reserves at a cost of \$5,291. To allow comments from residents, a vote on the issue was tabled until the end of the meeting. In addition, the use of cedar mulch vs. pine mulch for all other beds was discussed at a cost of \$12,496 (for cedar), which is budgeted every two years. Advantages and disadvantages of both were presented.  
To address a request made at the March 15 Owners Forum by a resident on the Knoll, smaller plants will be used at the entrance to the Knoll, so that the sign will be visible.
2. The drainage issue at 30 Knollwood North was briefly discussed. The site was visited by the Village Council, along with Mark Stupcenski, to determine if any action by the Council was needed.

3. Continued discussion of the planning and implementation of the paving of driveways and roads on the Knoll. The use of an engineering firm to oversee the project was also discussed, considering the cost and scope of the project. It was agreed by the Council that Elite solicit bids from a few engineering firms to determine what they can do for us, as well as their cost.
4. Apparently the Elite Emergency after hours' phone number has not been used properly. It was suggested that residents use common sense when calling this number for problems after regular office hours.

#### **New Business:**

1. Replacement of overgrown ornamental grass at 44 Sagewood. The site was visited by the Council and Mark Stupcenski of Russo Landscaping to determine the best course of action.
2. Reminder to residents that April 22 was scheduled for Walden Woods Earth Day Clean-up. Any volunteers who can attend will be greatly appreciated.
3. Residents were reminded that keeping their porches safe lies with the individual homeowner. May revisit the issue of banning use of salt on wooden porches in November prior to the next winter season.
4. Residents reminded that cars cannot be left on lifts in driveways, which are common areas. A car was noted to be on lifts during the April 7 walk around.
5. Briefly discussed what can be done about a large pine tree between 30 and 32 Knollwood North with a very shallow root system. Will revisit this issue after the Spring walk around in May.

#### **Owners Forum:**

Ruth Johnson, a resident on Ivy, asked a few more questions about the use of stone to cover designated beds. She also informed residents about a recent mailing asking people to join a neighborhood blog.

There being no further comments or questions from owners present, a vote was taken regarding use of stone or mulch in designated areas on the Knoll. After a brief discussion about weed control and actual cost savings, Joe Palladino voted in favor of stone, with Marlene Towers and Lynn Fitzgerald voting against.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

The next meeting will be held May 17, 2017 at the Meeting House.

Respectfully submitted, Marlene Towers, Secretary

