

HAMMOND ACRES CLUB, INC.

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Letter from the Club President

After a relatively quiet summer season, the Hammond Acres Club has once again been in discussions with the Goshen Select Board over the issue of snow plowing and sanding our roads. Last August, at the annual town meeting, voters in attendance overwhelmingly approved an article that the town continue to plow the private roads at Hammond Acres that had it had always plowed. The town issued a policy that required the Club to ensure roads had a minimum width, trees be pruned to 18 feet in height and ledge poking through roads in some areas be removed. Moreover, during snow and ice events, the town would not plow any road on which there was a vehicle. Other roads historically plowed would no longer be unless the plow truck had a sufficient turn-around area. Since then, I have attended several select board meetings to address our progress in complying with the town's policy.

Roads not now plowed are Washington Road South, Lower Lake Drive near the dam, and Pine Road. Washington Road South has no turn-around; nor does lower Lake Drive. Pine Road is a different story. The Paquettes purchased 14 Pine Road and maintain a number of vehicles on the road which they have refused to move. I met personally with Mr. Paquette and delivered him a notice that he needed to re-locate his vehicles before storms. He told me he would plow the road himself. Unfortunately, he does not sand the road and school the bus which picks up the Kelly children (the Kelly family are renters) will not go up Pine Road if there is snow or ice.

According to the police chief in town, we could have the vehicles towed to allow the plowing. But that is problematic: when do we tow? Moreover, the board of directors has not indicated a willingness to pay for towing. Please keep your vehicles off the roads when a storm is predicted.

As for Lower Lake Drive, we could attempt to build a turn-around, if there is sufficient area to do so, or re-enforce the bridge to permit a plow truck to cross it. That remains for future discussion.

I intend to form a subcommittee of the board of directors to consider long term goals. I will invite a number of members who are not on the board of directors to participate on this committee. If you are interested, please let me know.

Jon Sass has been our treasurer for many years. He intends to step down at the end of the 2020 fiscal year. Therefore, we will need a new treasurer come next August, 2020. Please let me or Jon know if you are willing to take on that task. Jon was a teacher, so he will train you well over the next year.

Another issue of concern for many members is the recent increase in rental of seasonal properties on such platforms as Air B&B and Home Away. Some properties have recently been purchased for that purpose alone with property owners not participating in Club events. Many members are concerned by this as we have always been a “communal” organization. We have depended on volunteerism of members for all of the Club’s history. Moreover, the extraordinary increase in rental by and to people who have no bond to this community puts our pond and facilities generally in jeopardy. We will have this on the agenda for the annual meeting.

Watch for the 2019 Meltdown announcement that Bob Labrie will send everyone. Fill out your day and time picks early.

Also, remember to check the Club’s website for the date of the first work party. Your help is greatly appreciated. We especially invite new members to join in as a good way to meet neighbors and make new friends.

The schedule of other summer events will also be posted as well. If you have an idea for a club event, let us know.

Think spring! Think summer!

Best wishes,
Gerry Glasser