



The Sycamore Islander

DECEMBER 2016 | VOLUME 95 NUMBER 12

Minutes for the November 9 Meeting

Attendees: Lucky Marmon, Bill Marmon, David Winer, Alison Levine, David Holdridge, Sherry Fizdale, Ben Robinson, Ned Goddard, Jim Drew, Ann Marie Cunningham, Richard Bertaut, Ned Goddard, John Butler, Tryon Wells, John Noble, Drew Walsh, Geoff Holdridge, John Noble, Vicki Judson, Joe Hage

Club President Tryon Wells called the meeting order. The October Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer s Report: Treasurer Ned Goddard presented the budget for 2017. He submitted a clear explanation of the Club s 2016 s expenditures, noting that unexpected expenses caused expenditures to outpace income by some 3% and required drawing funds from the club's reserves. Traditionally, the club's budget has been adjusted annually to reflect inflation. For 2016, the cost of living increase is estimated to be 0.2%.

The proposed Operating Expenses Budget for 2017 is \$92,100, reflecting increases in healthcare and insurance costs, a few basic repairs of the club, and the CPI increase. The 2017 budget will need to cover these projected club expenses with an overall average dues and fees increase of 6%. The budget was approved unanimously by the attendees.

Membership Report: John Noble introduced Ben Robinson. Ben and his wife applied for membership in 2012. Their three children Isaac, Daniel, and Penelope have enjoyed their wait list status, camping on the Island and canoeing. The family now lives in Winter Park, Florida, but may at some point return to the area. Their application for membership was approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee: Chairman John Noble is assisted on this committee by Bill Marmon and Tryon Wells. The time has come to fill club positions for 2017.

As of now, the following positions are filled:

President: Richard Bertaut

Assistant Captain: Rodolfo Castro

Recording Secretaries: Ann Marie Cunningham, Lucky Marmon

Positions that need to be filled:

Vice President, Captain, Financial Secretary, Newsletter Editor

Please consider volunteering to fill one of these vacancies. Recommendations welcome.

Personnel and Performance Committee: Chair Richard Bertaut submitted the committee's recommendation for a salary increase and bonus for the club's caretaker. These were approved unanimously.

Relief Caretakers Report: Madeleine Carter gives a big thanks to the following October relief caretakers: Kevin Haley, Eric Aaserud (twice), Lauren Brandt, Anya Schoolman, Jared Farber, Patricia Benton, Penny Mitchell, Christy and Garth Ross, Christopher Stern.

New Business: An ad hoc committee submitted recommendations for changes in the existing by-laws for standing committees. These had been sent to all members prior to the meeting. One change was made in standing rule 161 that related to the duties of the Captain. Item was deleted. Other changes were approved with the exception of the rules covering large party camping on the Island. These will be discussed, clarified, and voted on at the January meeting.

The swing and zip line: Dave Winer reported that the swing has been replaced with a much better and safer one. The new stainless steel zip line is stronger and safer.

The annual Holiday party/meeting will be held at 8:00 on December 14th at the home of Meredith Griggs, 6506 78th Street, Cabin John, 301 229 4935. The event is a potluck! The hostess provides only the venue. Please bring food and drink to share.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

LUCKY MARMON

Co-recording secretary

Notes from the Island

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.8 Water Temperature: 56
Club meeting tonight, 8:00! On the Island.

Monday, November 14, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.8 Water Temperature: 56

What a great time we had at the workfest yesterday, and we got a lot of chores done too! Of course, the first thing we had to do was eat turkey bacon and donuts; some members even combined the two, a Sycamore tradition. Thanks to George and his assistant, Shelly, for doing all of the grilling! And thanks to everyone that came out to make it such a successful day.

It was a good turn-out yet not too big. Sometimes it is tough on the caretaker to find jobs for everyone when there are eighty people here, but this time there were about fifty volunteers—perfect. Some of our usual helpers weren't here but there were new faces to fill their places. We missed Linda Phillips on the Kitchen clean-up but waitlister Amber took over admirably. Likewise, Geoff Holdrich stepped up to get the docks out and everyone pitched in to make it fun and easy. I had asked Steve Shultz to bring down his chainsaw and that was key to getting firewood stacked up for the winter. After Steve cut the logs, a crew of other new waitlisters, including Chris Maggio, proceeded to split them and stack them in the clubhouse.

I purchased and delivered 100 bricks to the Island for the workfest and Greg Super, with his helper Chris Stern, did his usual super job of laying the bricks for a nice walkway behind the clubhouse. The leaky faucet in the kitchen was fixed as well, thanks to Karl Kosok. I also purchased and delivered 3 large bales—170 square feet of insulation—but I couldn't get anyone to volunteer for that job. Experience tells me that it might be up to me to install the insulation. We did, however, check off a lot of things from our to-do list, and I am so proud of all of our volunteers.

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.8 Water Temperature: 45

We are finally getting some rain so maybe soon I'll be able to pull the ferry over without scraping the river bottom. It's been a long drought, but actually a low river is better than high river.

The new windows are in and they look great! I did an

JOE HAGE



JOE HAGE



excellent job installing them, with Mary's help of course. I'm so glad we got the warmer windows in before the weather got really cold.

For my birding friends, we've seen some wintering waterfowl begin to arrive. So far this month we've had Pied-billed Grebe, Bufflehead Duck, and a Whistling Swan that spent the day hanging out across the river. I had to look up the swan to be sure of what it was. The Whistler Swan was named by Merriwether Lewis because of the characteristic whistling of their wings. It is also known as the Tundra Swan. The other native swan is the Trumpeter Swan, which is rarely seen here and is more common in the northwest.

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.7 Water Temperature: 54

I forgot to mention that some of the new waitlister kids, Matthew and Sophia, built themselves a little fort while they were here for the workfest. They got a good start at the workfest but they were back yesterday to put some more finishing touches on their new Island structure, which is so awesome.

The tree experts were here today to do some trimming. It was a good thing that I had them come when I did. Apparently the big silver maple that was leaning

over the house was on the verge of toppling over. The whole tree was shaking when Franklin climbed up to cut it. I was also glad that I had them remove the mulberry tree that was leaning on our ferry cables. It was only a matter of time before that heavy tree fell and caused some damage to the ferry and cables. That tree was so dense that when I pushed the logs into the river, they sank straight to the bottom.

Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.7 Water Temperature: 56

I drove up to the Home Depot in Gaithersburg yesterday to pick up the three new windows for the caretaker's quarters. The old windows have gone bad and have lost their insulating gas so that they have turned white and you can't see out of them. The old windows have been bad like that since I moved here 14 years ago, so it is going to be a big change and a big improvement to the club. I plan to install the windows this week. The windows were \$250, installation, no charge.

JOE HAGE
Caretaker



JOE HAGE

Come to the
SYCAMORE ISLAND

Holiday Party

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

8:00 P.M.

at the home of

MEREDITH GRIGGS

6506 78TH STREET, CABIN JOHN

The Sycamore Islander

6613 80th Place
Cabin John, MD 20818

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Happy Holidays



RENEE DUNHAM



RENEE DUNHAM



RENEE DUNHAM



RENEE DUNHAM



JOE HAGE

To volunteer as a substitute caretaker, please email your choice of day and shift to Madeleine Carter, madeleinepcarter@gmail.com.

Saturday Relief Caretakers **December 2016**

DECEMBER	11 A.M. – SUNSET
DECEMBER 3	John Cunningham
DECEMBER 10	Tom Dyson
DECEMBER 17	Please Volunteer
DECEMBER 24	Please Volunteer
DECEMBER 31	Please Volunteer

Changing of the Guard at *The Islander*

Carol Beehler, who has beautifully edited and designed *The Islander*, month in and month out for six years, is stepping down at year end from this important Island post.

Thank You, Carol, for a great job!

We need to find a member with design experience to take over this vital job.

Please volunteer!

Call or email John Noble, 301 320 3554, johnanoble@mac.com or Bill Marmon, 301 654 7893, wmarmon@gmail.com.



RENEE DUNHAM