

The Good Life...

--- Published by Tamarack Trails Community Services Association ---
(608) 833-1615 – www.tamaracktrails.com / Office Hours M - F 9 am- 4 pm, or by Appointment

Oct. 2023

Meeting Calendar

Meetings are open to all residents.

Architectural Review Board

Wednesday, Oct 11 – 4:00pm

Maintenance Committee

Tuesday, Oct 10 – 4:00pm

Resident Activities Committee

Wednesday, Oct 11 – 5:00pm

Finance Committee

Wednesday, Oct 18 – 3:00pm

Board of Directors

Tuesday, Oct 24 – 6:30pm

Amenities Committee

Monday, Oct 9 – 1:00pm

Event Calendar

(Please mark your calendars)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Friday
9 am – 4 pm
Or by appointment

Stacey Haberman
Association Manager
Stacey.Haberman@tamaracktrails.com

Jean Hilgers,
Office Manager
Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com

Current News

We're looking for ideas (and people to go with them).

Next year, Tamarack Trails will celebrate our 50th birthday! And we're looking for ideas that can help us all mark the occasion throughout 2024!

If you have a great idea or suggestion, if you have any historical materials that you'd be willing to share, and if you'd like to be part of a group to put plans into action, we want your input.

Please send your ideas – or let us know if you want to volunteer to play a part in the festivities – to our Association Manager stacey.haberman@tamaracktrails.com by Friday, October 15th. (And if you think of someone who'd be good at this, send their name, too! We'll take it from there.

Tamarack Trails Association Pre-Election Candidate Forum

Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm In the Clubhouse or via Zoom. Link will be emailed.

You are invited to meet all seven nominees for the four vacant Board of Directors seats in this year's election. The four candidates whom you elect will serve on the Tamarack Trails Board of Directors for 2024 to 2026, starting at the November 2023 Board meeting. You will soon receive a packet of information for this year's election, that will include statements from all seven candidates and their photograph; the election ballot with voting instructions; and a proxy form also with instructions. Please look at this information in the mail.

Seven of our neighbors have committed to serve on the Board. Four will be elected by you. Please take the opportunity to meet with each candidate personally (or via zoom) so you are best able to make an informed choice on whom you'd like to see serving the greater good of the association on the Board of Directors.

Here are the names of the seven candidates whom you will meet at the candidate forum on Thursday, October 12.

Keith Findley
Ellen Foley
Patricia King
Dave Larson
Cailin O'Connor
Ginny White
See you there!



Activities and Events

Don't Miss Out on Quilts, Quilts and more Quilts!

The last day to see Anne Prenevost 's beautiful quilts is Tuesday, October 10th. If you haven't seen them or want to enjoy them one more time please stop by the Clubhouse Lower Level Meeting Room.

2023 Fall Brunch

It was a beautiful morning for the Fall Bruch!! The Residents Activities Committee made sure there was an abundance of food and beverages for the 100 people that attended. Residents enjoyed seeing each other and visiting with neighbors and friends.

RAC would also like to thank all the people who volunteered to help with the set-up and takedown of the event. And a special thanks is also extended to all RAC members who helped to coordinate the event! Everyone's efforts bring so much happiness and joy to people!!



Save the Date

Tamarack Trails Holiday Party

When: Wednesday, December 6th

Time: 6PM-8 PM

Where: Tamarack Trails Clubhouse

Who: All Tamarack Residents



Tam Talks 2023-24

Tamarack's Tam Talk Series for 2023-24 will resume in November. Watch your email and The Good Life for information!



LEARN FROM EVERYONE

Tamarack Trail Resident Art Show—Rick Genthe, Photography,

October 15th thru December 15th Clubhouse Lower-Level Meeting Room

Ric was born and raised in the Driftless region of Wisconsin. He grew up appreciating the beauty of the clear trout streams, rolling terrain, and the history of the area. Although Ric is a successful Commercial Art illustrator and art director, photography has always been a passion. You probably have seen Ric out and about walking his new puppy Ruby with camera in hand. Ric believes that world class beauty is just out our door as seen in the bridges of Tamarack, the trees in Walnut Grove Park, water on the flowers in our yard, or the cute face of our new puppy. Ric hopes you enjoy his display. You can find many more of his photographs at (www.fineartamerica.com).



Seasonal Reminders & Projects

News from Neighbors for a Greener Tamarack (NGT)

Fall No Blow (“Leave the Leaves”) Project

If you haven't already signed up for “No Blow” for your developed flower beds or mulched area(s), contact the Tamarack Office 608-833-1615.

WHITE flags will again be used to designate the area for Greenscapes, our landscape contractor. NGT volunteers will distribute flags and instructions prior to the beginning of the fall cleanup. Watch for an email from the Office announcing the first leaf blowing. (Once the fall cleanup is done, please remove the flags and keep them for the spring clean-up round.)

By reducing leaf blowing, it not only cuts down on noise pollution, dust, and use of gas-powered engines, but leaving leaf litter



in various areas helps to retain soil moisture, keep the weeds down, and is beneficial to over-wintering pollinators. Thanks to all residents who participate in this worthwhile project.

Plant Dane Native Gardens

NGT submitted a successful grant application to Plant Dane and was awarded about 55 plants to develop two pollinator gardens— one small, fenced area near the Clubhouse and one in the Red Maple Trail drainage way. Both gardens were chosen for their visibility to passersby, providing an opportunity to inform residents about native plants beneficial to pollinators. Most of these plants can be replicated in resident flower beds.



More information listing plant species has been posted on the clubhouse bulletin board. Each plant has been tagged identifying it by its common name to help you should you desire to purchase plants for your home gardens. Plants were selected to provide flowering throughout the garden season.

Both sites required pre-planting preparation, either removal of invasive species or incorporation of soil amendments. NGT members will water the new plantings, track plant success and loss, and continue to maintain both sites.

NGT thanks both the Maintenance Committee and Board for their on-going support.

Join Your Neighbors in this Year's Fall Cleanup

Organized volunteer spring and fall cleanups in selected common areas have brought together residents with similar interests. Through these cleanups, NGT has been fortunate to expand its member base while teaching about various plants—desirable and invasive.

This fall the cleanup is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 17 from 9-11 am**. A rain date is planned for Wednesday, October 18, at the same time. We will meet at the Clubhouse parking area for an overview of the day.

Volunteers need to contact Paulette Harder at paulettejah@gmail.com or 262-385-6148. Expect to bring your own water, work gloves and shovels or loppers. If you need to bring a chair, please do so.



Board and Committee Business

Board Notes for 9/26/23 meeting

This article is an informal report about the 9/26/23 Board of Directors meeting. It is not an official record.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held in person and by Zoom on September 26, 2023. All Directors and Association Manager Stacey Haberman were present, as were 43 residents.

The major topics were adding benches to the trails, a possible city action with important implications for some Tamarack owners, and the draft 2024 budget.

There was extensive discussion about an Amenities Committee proposal for 2 additional benches. Some residents voiced concern about both the idea of adding benches and the process by which this was moving forward. The principal issues were privacy, safety and security, noise, and maintenance; and not providing sufficient timely information and opportunity for resident input. Those in opposition also cited a petition with 61 signatures against the benches. Those in favor spoke about creating places to rest, easing outdoor access for less able residents, and enhancing our welcoming atmosphere. It was also noted that the 61 residents are a minority of all Tamarack residents, and that the proposal was self-limiting: no benches would be placed without the approval of all adjacent residents. There was general agreement that more discussion might have dampened the strong rhetoric over this issue.

The motion to accept the proposal was defeated 4-3. A second motion to refer the question to the Maintenance and Amenities Committees for recommendations, and to develop a survey of all residents was approved.

Association Manager Stacey Haberman reported on several items including staffing and maintenance. Major points:

- Angie and Jean continue to work on grounds projects including summer pruning, watering, and backfilling from asphalt and concrete work. Planting of fall flowers and seeding may start next week. All college students have gone back to school.
- Rollie has completed the Wisconsin Dwelling Contractor Initial Training. We have ads running for a Maintenance Technician and had a good interview with a candidate.
- The office has received Community Correspondence regarding Benches. Several residence repair projects are underway.

Treasurer White reported that Tamarack finances are in good shape, but we can expect some significant future expenses. The reserve fund is \$781,000 which will be needed to pay for the Oak Creek asphalt work and upcoming pool repairs. The Board approved presenting the draft 2024 budget to residents at the annual budget meeting, October 10. (This was not approval of the budget; it is approval to present it to residents for review and comment). The draft budget includes \$750,000 for the pool, a midpoint between the high and low estimates of \$500,000 and \$1 million. To maintain necessary reserves and avoid a special assessment, the Finance Committee recommends a 10% increase in the average monthly assessment (AMA).

Jayne Meyer reported on a recent meeting regarding proposed city policies for handling encroachments on public property, which could affect historical use of outdoor space. 27 affected residents attended, reviewed the proposed changes, and considered options. The Board approved allocating funds for legal counsel to prepare arguments on behalf of owners and the HOA.

On a related issue, Dean Ryerson reported that a recent meeting with a city engineer revealed that plans for the Sauk Creek Greenway are expected to be finalized by late 2024 or early 2025.

There will be a series of focus groups and community meetings. George Meyer will play a lead role, and residents will be kept informed.

In other business, George Jesien reported that the communications working group has not been able to meet with Tamarack's web designer and does not yet have a proposal. Finally, there will be a call for volunteers to serve on an ad hoc 50th Anniversary Committee. (See article in this issue.)

The Budget Hearing will be on October 10th at 6:30 p.m. The next monthly Board Meeting is October 24th at 6:30 pm. Annual Meeting will be held October 26th at 7:00p.m. at Vista West. All meetings are in person and on Zoom.