

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

March 2025

Meeting Calendar

Meetings are open to all residents.

Amenities Committee

Tuesday, April 15 – 11:00am

Architectural Review Board

Wednesday, April 9 – 4:30pm

Board of Directors

Tuesday, March 25 – 6:30pm

Finance Committee

Wednesday, March 19 – 3:00pm

Maintenance Committee

Tuesday, April 8 – 4:00pm

Resident Activities Committee

Wednesday, April 9 – 5:00pm

Welcome Committee

Scheduled date TBD

Events

March 18th Tam Talk 6:30 p.m.

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

Aldo Leopold Loved Tamarack Trees

“Again, The tamarack is to me a favorite second only to white pine, perhaps because he is nearly extinct in my township (underdog bias), or because he sprinkles gold on October grouse (gunpowder bias), or because he sours the soil and enables it to grow the loveliest of our orchids, the showy lady’s-slipper. On the other hand, foresters have excommunicated the tamarack because he grows too slowly to pay compound interest. In order to clinch this dispute, they also mention that he succumbs periodically to epizootics of sawfly, but this is fifty years hence for my tamaracks, so I shall let my grandson worry about it. Meanwhile my tamaracks are growing so lustily that my spirits soar with them, skyward.

A Sandy County Almanac, 1946

Clubhouse Solar Project Update

The Tamarack Trails ad hoc solar committee continues to work at the direction of the Board of Directors on the proposal for a solar system to be installed on the roof of the clubhouse. The proposed solar panel array is a 17.1-kilowatt system that would provide more than 50 percent of the electricity used annually by the clubhouse and swimming pool. The proposal also includes an needed upgrade of the clubhouse’s electrical equipment and additional framing over the building’s south-facing balcony.

If the project is approved by the board of directors, the installation is slated to take place in the autumn after the pool closes for the season.

An easel has been set up in the clubhouse lobby with information and illustrations explaining the project. Another informational meeting is planned for the 1st half of April. If you have more questions about the plan, you’re welcome to contact Dave Larson

at David@Tamaracktrails.com, committee chairperson Tom Hirsch at tehirsch@gmail.com, or Tamarack Trails Association Manager Stacey Haberman at stacey@tamaracktrails.com.

Activities and Events

March Tam Talk - Reflections on China

March 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM

It seems that every day we are hearing more about China and its role in the world. Tamarack resident Dean Ryerson had a recent opportunity to visit Chinese homes and to speak to Chinese people in Shanghai, Beijing, Zian, and Yantai. He also participated in a Chinese wedding and toured various historic and other sites in China.

At a TamTalks meeting on Tuesday March 18, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Club House and via Zoom, Dean will share those insights with an illustrated presentation. Tamarack residents in attendance who have visited China will also be invited to share their perspectives.

Tam Talks are sponsored by the Tamarack Resident Activities Committee.

Are You Interested?

Do you have an interesting hobby, artistic practice, or prized collection you could share with your neighbors here in Tamarack Trails? For example, maybe you're a wood turner, jewelry maker, or photographer. Or possibly, you collect baseball cards, antique post cards, or a special type of pottery. The Resident Activities Committee (RAC) is considering holding an event in which residents can share and "show off" their interests by displaying and discussing a wide array of personal collections. If you're interested in participating in such an event, please contact Lynnie Clemens (lclemens@tds.net) or Maureen (Mo) OKeefe (mokeefe656@gmail.com), co-chairs of RAC. We'd like to learn about any type of collection you'd be willing to showcase.

Seasonal Reminders And Projects

Ice Melt

Ice No More (a calcium/potassium chloride blend of ice melt) can be purchased through the Tamarack office. The ice melt is available in 20-pound bags at a cost of \$6.00 each. Please use the form located at the end of this newsletter to order your ice melt. We keep the salt on hand for sale throughout the winter.

Board and Committee Business

ARB News & Updates

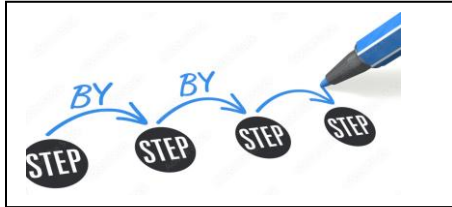
PARKING of VEHICLES, MOTORCYCLES, and MOTOR SCOOTERS (Book of Standards, BOS)

18a. Vehicle Parking — Residents' cars should be parked in the garage or on the Owner's Living Unit driveway apron. Cleared driveways enhance the aesthetic appearance of the community. See also Tamarack Trails Policy Resolution I-102, <https://www.tamaracktrails.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PolicyResolutions-2022.pdf>.

18b. Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Parking—Resident's motorcycle and motor scooter should be parked in the garage or on Owner's Living Unit driveway.

What does this mean for me, my neighbors and visitors? If you have a one-car garage, you are allowed to park up to two vehicles, which means one may be parked in your garage and one in your driveway. If you have a two-car garage, you are allowed to park up to four vehicles on your unit lot; two in the garage and two in the driveway. All other vehicles may need to be parked on city streets or at alternate locations. Guests may use, if available, Guest Parking.

IMPORTANCE OF PROJECT PLANNING



It is that time of year that some of us begin to think about doing some updating inside and outside of our units. Here are just a few steps to follow if your project is one that may need approval by the Architectural Review Board.

- First know when the ARB meets and when a request must be submitted to the Office; also familiarize yourself with Policy IV-401, the Book of Standards (found on the webpage).
- If the proposed project is one that may enlarge the building exterior, be aware that there is a 60% density restriction for exterior expansions or alterations. There is an excel spread sheet available to assist in finding the current and proposed density for your unit.
- Determine if your project request requires the submittal of Form 1 or Form 2; see BOS.
- **Form 1 Exterior Expansion or Alternations.** Examples being rebuilding of decks/patios, enclosed spaces, and any 'attachments' to the unit exterior, etc. In all cases when working with your contractor, share a copy of the BOS early in the planning or bid process. Before submitting your request to the ARB, reach out to your neighbors and keep them apprised of your plans; their input is important.
- **Form 2 Expedited Requesting Non-Construction or Replacement Proposals.** The following are examples of Expedited Review requests -- window/door replacements, door colors, ramps, steps/handrails, solar arrays and tunnels, various exhaust venting, and non-hardwired security appurtenances.

ARB MEETING DATES AND REQUEST DEADLINES

The following table lists some ARB meeting dates for 2025 with the corresponding date indicating when completed requests are due in the Office, 14 days prior to the meeting:

Meeting Date (Weds. 4:30 pm Clubhouse)	Completed Requests Due
March 12	February 26
April 9	March 26
May 14	April 30

Board Report – February 2025

The board meeting was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

The Association Manager's activities include recruiting for a Grounds Supervisor, a review of the 2025 Reserve Study with plans for a resident presentation, getting quotes for rock walls, drainage, mulching, concrete, asphalt, fencing, pool deck, painting and tree maintenance/removal and a review of the Waste Management dumpster contract.

December 31, 2024 *unaudited* Fund Balances (*Audit is scheduled for April.*)

A. Operating - \$213,019.51

B. Reserve - \$757,128.04

New Committee Members were appointed by the board:

- Sue Rapa, 84 Oak Creek, as a member of the Amenities Committee
- Brian Shore, 86 Oak Creek, as a member of the Resident Activities Committee
- Keith Findley, Dave Larson, Cailin O'Connor, Tom Hirsch, Les Mirkin, Mark Aylesworth, Nancy Korda, Janet Zimmerman, Harry Miles and Melinda Young as members of the Energy Conservation and Green Energy Ad-hoc Workgroup

2025 Tamarack Recreation Rules with details for the tennis/pickleball courts and the pool were approved.


A community hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11th, 6-7pm to hear comments about the **Proposed replacement of current policy: Policy V-501.14 Plumbing:**

*The Association is responsible for the water mains and sewer mains and lateral lines **up to the exterior foundation wall** ~~except for the private exterior backflow valves and shutoff valves.~~ The Owner is responsible for all interior water and sewer piping, valves and fixtures. ~~including the exterior sewer backflow valves and water shutoff valves serving the individual Living Unit.~~*

With the Tamarack anniversary year ending, the 50th Anniversary Work Group is considering forming a Memory Book Work Group.

The Solar Ad Hoc Work Group held a presentation to residents on 2/19/2025. Contact the office to see the recording on their proposal to add solar panels to the roof of the clubhouse. The board approved their request to develop more details, pricing and financial pros/cons prior to final approval.

Next board meeting – Tuesday, March 25, 2025

	<p style="text-align: center;">Neighbors for a Greener Tamarack Think Spring Native Planting and Cleaning Up</p>
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Where to Buy Native Plants

Native Plants are a wonderful addition to your landscape no matter the size of your plot. They require less maintenance and bring birds and pollinators to your garden for your enjoyment, too.

Here are some great resources to assist you in making decisions on what to purchase, plant and enjoy.

- Interactive Map of Native Plant Nurseries

Wisconsin DNR maintains a list of [native plant nurseries](#) in Wisconsin and neighboring states. The DNR has adapted the list into an interactive map where you can use see locations by region. Check out Wisconsin DNR extension.

- Plant Dane Program. Order by March 18!

The Plant Dane Program provides Dane County residents access to native plants at the discounted price of \$3.00/plant (\$12.00/4-pack), about half the normal retail price. It's open individual residents in Dane County, Wisconsin. Must pick up May 17.

<https://www.ripple-effects.com/Plant-Dane>

- Friends of Arboretum Native Plant Sale. Order by March 31!

Order online at FOAMADISION.ORG or attend in person (though it is busy!)

- FREE SEEDS at Madison Libraries

You just have to take your chances on what varieties are available. They go fast!

Are You a No Spray/Reduce Pesticides Unit Lot Owner?

It might be time to properly discard of these no longer needed, opened/unopened containers taking up space on a shelf in your garage.

Dane County Clean Sweep Program accepts most "agricultural chemicals" year round at their 7020 Maahic Way landfill site.

Check out this link <https://landfill.danecounty.gov/services/clean-sweep>

listing which items are accepted, when accepted, and which items require a drop-off fee.

And be a good Neighbor for a Greener Tamarack and invite a neighbor or two to join you in properly disposing of their lawn and garden chemicals.

A Busy Season Ahead for NGT

Watch for future articles in the Good Life and emails from the Office on Leave the Leaves, No Spray and No Mow/Low Mow May!

KNOW YOUR TAMARACK NEIGHBOR – Cailin O'Conner

Cailin O'Connor, my neighbor at 9 White Pine Trail, is this month's KNOW YOUR TAMARACK NEIGHBOR. She was born in Madison, and lived briefly in Reedsburg before coming back to the west side of Madison. Her parents are Tom & Rita O'Connor, a retired Social Worker & a teacher at Eagle School, respectively.

Cailin attended Jefferson Middle School (Gillespie) & Memorial H.S. (Vel Phillips) where her extracurricular activities included being stage manager for the theatre group, and working on the student newspaper. Her first job was working at the Comedy Sportz Club in downtown Madison. She started a Comedy Sportz Team at Memorial, and this group competed against other schools. When it came time for college, she chose Macalester College, a liberal & very political school near in St. Paul that had a strong International program. Cailin always knew that she wanted to study abroad — something she got from her parents who were active in Madison Friends of International Students. Cailin was editor of the college newspaper (a very time - consuming venture), & sang in the choir.

The spring of her junior year she did study abroad in Denmark with Denmark's International Study Program. Normally, this would have been one semester, but Cailin stayed a second semester to work in an Irish pub. She then came back to Macalester to graduate, then returning to Copenhagen for four years. While studying in Denmark, Cailin met a Danish man, and they were married in 2002, right before she started graduate school at the UW — Madison in the School of Human Ecology. March of 2008, Cailin's daughter, Amalia Mortensen was born, and Cailin took six months off, before going back to part-time consulting. In 2013 Cailin & her husband separated, and then divorced in 2014. She began working full time, at home, for the Center for the Study of Social Policy, a nonprofit located in D.C.

She worked from 2013 until this January 31, 2025 with this organization, but then she quit, & started her own consulting company, CAILIN O'CONNOR CONSULTING. Cailin said she did this so she could have more control over her time, enabling her to spend more time with her daughter. This is important at this time, for Amalia probably will go off to college in Denmark with a cousin. The tuition is free to those like Amalia who hold dual citizenship. Amalia hopes to go to Denmark, when she is 19 years old, but this summer she hopes to lifeguard at the Tamarack pool.

Cailin is not all work, work, work for she works out three times/week at the Supreme Club on Odana. She participates in a low-key mom's book club every couple of months, & is currently reading Demon Copperfield. She also volunteers for Team Gold, a group that supports Democratic candidates.

In April of 2020, Cailin & Amalia moved into Tamarack, and Cailin says she loves it. Amalia can walk to school, there is a pool & there is a real sense of community. Cailin has served on an ad hoc committee for solar panels since residing here.

Cailin also loves Madison. She says it is the right size, has a lot going on especially downtown; it is an easy place to live; has diversity, and is a good place for Amelia. It doesn't hurt that Cailin has met a new friend, Firoz, who is fun to be around & a good cook of Indian food.

I can add from personal experience that she is a nice, helpful neighbor— always willing to lend a hand. It is a pleasure to have this family next door.

Joyce Hasselman Waldorf

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Tamarack Trails Ice Melt Order Form

Please submit this form along with your payment to the Tamarack office.

The ice melt will be delivered to your doorstep the following day.

Address _____

Qty _____ 20 lb. Bag(s) \$6.00 = \$_____