Newsletter of the Goldens Bridge Community Association

Winter

THIS ISSUE: This issue of Road 4 contains only eight pages. We would prefer to distribute a more complete edition. However, in an effort to accede to the vote of the membership for timely distribution of Board Minutes, we are publishing with only a minimum of colony news.

The minutes are available on the Goldens Bridge web site (http://www.goldensbridge.org) as soon as they are approved by the Board. It would be an advantage to await important colony contributions before going to press. What do you think? Let us know.

Gram the Editor

"Road Four" is now available in electronic (PDF) format. If you, or any friends or family would like to get the electronic version, which is now in color, contact us with the recipient's email address. Road Four is also available on the GB web site: www.goldensbridge.org/GBsite/ roadfourmain.htm

Road Four is a community newsletter. If you have any news, be it personal or whatever that you would like to share, please send it to us. Road Four prints 4 issues per year.

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That Damned Generator— Why Now? Why At All?

From the day we built the pump house and disinfection facilities thereby concentrating the water system in one place, about 20 years ago, we started talking about a standby generator. In those days, power outages rarely lasted for more than two days, and estimates we had for a standby generator with automatic on-and-off power ranged from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

So naturally, we discussed and then discussed some more and eventually did nothing. Much to the chagrin of our "customers"

who deviously put cleanliness and sanitation above all else (and who doesn't).

Of course, some years went by without a power failure whereby the subject of a generator never came up. Things are much different now. Today, we live in the generator era - every one seems to want one. The reason, clearly, is unpredictable weather events that recently caused three extended water shutdowns within a 12-month period. This got our attention along with the big drop in generator costs. The Westchester Health Department also got our attention by mandating that we supply water during power failures with serious consequences if we don't. But the greatest impetus for action at this time is that our Community overwhelmingly voted in favor of a generator at a recent Membership meeting so who are we to argue?

The water system Community wants a continuous water supply. They are entitled to it and they shall have it.

However, they won't have it soon. The building inspector is requiring a variance from the zoning Board of Appeals, a process that takes several months.

Stay tuned and hope for a mild, calm winter.

Ron Arnstein...

Members Private Use Of The Barn

1. The barn and property is available for private parties to members who are in good standing and whose dues have been paid for the current year. However, if dues were not paid within sixty days of the due date for two out of the last three years, a one thousand dollar deposit in the form of a money order or bank check must be submitted to the head of the barn committee of the Goldens Bridge Community Assn. executive board, in escrow to cover any damages that may occur to the barn and/or property for the day(s) the member uses the facilities. That check will be returned in full to the member if no damages are assessed.

2. The barn and property will not be available for private parties from the start up of the Goldens Bridge Day Camp until after the Banquet, usually the last week in June through Labor Day.

3. All food, drink, paper goods etc. and trash bags will be supplied by the member and removed, including all trash, from the barn and property on the day(s) of use.

4. The member agrees to clean the barn and property and leave it in the same condition in which they found it.

5. The member agrees to pay in full for any damages to anything in the barn and on the property and will

be held liable for failure to do so.

6. Renters must have a member (see paragraph 1.) take responsibility for use of the barn and/or premises.

7. The Goldens Bridge Community Assn. executive board reserves the right to refuse a request for the use of the barn and/or property.

Cars are permitted to parallel park on either side of the road in front of the barn only as long as they leave a clear path for emergency vehicles (i.e. fire truck) to pass. They are *not* to park in front of any other property. Additional parking facilities are available at the lake.

Colony And Other Quotes

- Any day you're not in the hospital is a good day *Lisette Meyers*
- Anybody who seems normal is just someone you don't know well enough *Ruth Dombrow*
- It's better to beg forgiveness than ask permission Anonymous
- I'm flexible, just not right awayDitto
- It's good if it's good and it's good if it's free *National saying* of *Malta (and GBCA)*
- "The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits." – *Albert Einstein*

Summer Social Season

The Social Committee has been working to bring us a wonderful set of activities for this summer. The complete calendar will appear in the next issue of Road 4. Here are dates that have been confirmed so far.

Saturday, July 6th: BBQ Saturday, July 13th Hudson Valley Sally (at the beach)

Thursday, August 1st Book Club "The 12 Tribes of Hattie" by Ayana Mathis

Saturday, August 3rd: Volley Ball Tournament and BBQ

Saturday. August 10th Trio con Brio and Friends

Saturday August 31st: Banquet

Three more Saturday nights are planned but not finalized. There will be movie nights for both kids and adults; folk dancing every Friday night with instruction from 8 to 9 PM; and a talent show. While a date for the talent show has not been selected, those interested in participating should contact Holly Lukin at 232-8309.

Studying in Costa Rica



Brandon Orr is spending his college junior year in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Those interested in learning more about Central America are free to follow Brandon's blog. http://www.bassitup1.tumblr.com/

Cuba Today—By Aaron Kroun

Last December, Annette and I spent 11 days in Cuba. We did not travel as tourists, but on a cultural exchange program allowed by the US Government. We booked our trip under the auspices of A Bridge Between Cultures. These trips are usually sold out quickly.

US Credit cards and traveler checks are not accepted in Cuba. One has to bring enough cash to last their trip. Dollars can be exchanged upon entry into Cuba at most hotels. Dollars are exchanged for CUCs, one of the official currencies. CUCs are accepted everywhere. The other currency, the

peso, which has little value, is used by most Cubans for staples and non-luxury items.

Until recently, travel between the United States and Cuba had been restricted. Before the easing of travel restrictions, one had to leave from Canada or Mexico or another country. Now even travel restrictions for Cubans wanting to leave Cuba has been eased.

Although one cannot really get to know and fully understand a foreign country in an 11-day visit, one can get a sense and feel of the Cuban people. We found them to be affable and eager to talk to us.

We travelled with a group of 20, spending time in Havana, Cienfuegos, and Trinidad. Our local guide was a native Cuban who spoke flawless accented english. Our tour guide was a Mexican-American lady named Ruby who worked for the Grand Circle Foundation.

We attended a lecture about dance in Cuba and visited a senior center. Interestingly the center is supported by the Catholic Church, not the Cuban Government. We went to the Arts and Crafts Market, visited the Cabana Fortress— Che Guevara once had an office there—with a spectacular view of Havana. Travelled to a Sephardic Synagogue and a small museum of the Holocaust. Took bicitaxis (pedicab propelled by human power) to a farmer's market in Havana. Visited the Organic Nursery Alamar and went to the Art Museum, Muyseo Nacional de Bellas Artes. We heard a lecture on Cuban-US relations we found very informative.

In Cienfuegos we had people-topeople experiences with arts and crafts vendors. We watched fishermen at the pier dropping their nets into the water and bringing up small silver fish. Our group enjoyed the singing of the Choir of Cienfuegos at the Museum of Cienfuegos.

We visited the home of several

artists and photographers. Enjoyed a presentation of dances by the children from the Casa de la Cultura. Our group was invited to join the dancers on stage.

On the way from Cienfuegos to Trinidad our group visited the Botanical Gardens where the local guide, Roger, took us on a tour, explaining the different kinds of plant life.

In Trinidad we visited the basket weavers. Baskets, hats, shopping bags were all hand-made from straw. We saw a table with old sewing machines secured to the top, only one worked. We went to a ceramic workshop where the process of molding clay and creating ceramic items was demonstrated.

Our group visited the Manaca Iznaga Sugar Cane Plantation where the famous tower and well, made by the Iznaga brothers are located. We also visited a home of a man called Señor Echerai and chatted with his family. He showed us his ration card. The vast majority of Cubans rely on their ration cards for the allocation of food and other items. Went to a home of a woodcarver and painter. Visited the home of a Santeria Priest. Santeria is a religion of a combination of Catholicism and African religions.

We visited the beach where the Bay of Pigs Invasion was undertaken by a paramilitary group that was launched from Guatemala. Our guide pointed out the concrete barriers erected close to the shoreline.

We departed Trinidad for the Escambray Mountains where we visited an area in which many varieties of coffee beans were grown. We visited a family of coffee farmers who produced most of the coffee beans in the area.

As we left Trinidad each of us received a bottle of rum and a cigar from the hotel as a parting gift. Because Americans cannot bring back alcohol or cigars, among other items, we had to get rid of them

before we left Cuba. Some we gave away, some we consumed.

In Havana we went to the Christopher Columbus Cemetery in Cuba, a vast 140-acre cemetery with many tall monuments and sculptured memorials. The cemetery has more than 500 mausoleums. It is huge.

Our group went to a day care center, mainly funded by the Catholic Church. We saw a dog wearing a hat and glasses at the Plaza Vieja. The hat probably kept the dog protected from the sun, however I'm not sure if the glasses were prescription.



On the 11th day our group went to dinner in Old Havana. After dinner as we left the restaurant our guide asked us to cross the street for the transportation back to our hotel. Lined up were vintage American convertibles, chevrolets, buicks, pontiacs, all of 1950's vintage. All with their tops down. With four people in each car, music blaring from the car radios, Bermuda horns blasting a cacophony of sounds, we drove back to the hotel. Along the wall lining the Port of Havana, Cubans enjoying a beautiful evening, were clapping and cheering as our procession drove past them along the waterfront.

Most of the cars in Cuba are



vintage American from the 1950s, a few from the 1940s. There are not many European cars on the streets. It's amazing how the Cubans are able to fabricate parts to maintain and keep these cars running. A few Mercedes, Volvos or an occasional Russian Lada, mostly used as taxis, can be seen. We spotted almost no newer vehicles. Some old Soviet era trucks and busses were seen. The bus our group travelled in was of newer Korean vintage with all the amenities, including air conditioning, seat belts and a bathroom.

Almost to a person, the Cubans we spoke to were open about the political life in their country. The Cuban people cheered when Obama was re-elected. Here in the US, Cuban-American voters are less committed to the continuation of the US embargo of Cuba. After the Soviet Union abandoned Cuba in the 1990s, the Cuban economy collapsed. This era became known as the Special Period in Time of Peace.

Cubans have made tremendous progress in organic farming. Not having the resources to import chemical fertilizers or modern farm equipment, the they have made giant strides in farming.

The relaxation of travels restrictions by the US towards Cuba has had immense economic benefits for the Cuban people. US relatives are now permitted to bring some money into Cuba. Many goods travel freely between the US and Cuba. While sitting at the Jose Marti Airport waiting for our flight back to Miami, we saw planeloads of travellers bringing in all kinds of goods

including flat screen TVs and other appliances.

Although travel restrictions and access to internet service elude most Cubans, a sense of optimism permeates the country. Hotels and most other businesses are owned by the Cuban government. Free enterprise is slowly creeping into the Cuban

economy. Restaurants called paladares, mostly family-run are starting to appear. These restaurants are in direct competition with Stateowned restaurants and generally serve more home-made Cuban delicacies at a lower price. Cuban people are resilient. The younger generation is fully aware of life outside their country. They would like a share of the dream, a dream only miles away. Improving Cuban-American relations will benefit all parties. It is a win, win for everyone.

I believe in time the barriers will come down. As the younger generation crave and demand more freedom, the walls will come down, in this case only 90 miles of open water.

BOARD & MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

October GBCA Board Meeting Cancelled Due To Hurricane Sandy

GBCA Membership Meeting Minutes October 28, 2012

The meeting was convened at 11:25 AM.

Present: 23 Voting Members and approximately 10 other community members.

1-Reading of Minutes:

The minutes from the August 26, 2012 Membership meeting were read and accepted as read. The reading of Board meeting minutes was waived as they will appear on the GoldensBridge.org website, and in Road 4.

2-Financial:

Paul Stewart-Stand, Treasurer, reported on our financial condition, using the hand out sheets that he provided:

Checking Accounts:

M&T Checking: \$72,015 Camp \$10,431

Savings Accounts:

Regular Savings: \$2,168 Water Capitol: \$34,670 Capitol Improvement \$40,577 Total:` \$159,854

We presently have \$14,592 outstanding for this year from members who have not paid, or are payment plans, and another \$11,435 outstanding from prior years.

Paul then went over the proposed 2013 Budget.

John Bergherr moved, seconded by Martha Levites, to accept the 2013 Budget, as proposed by the Boar. Motion carried unanimously. Paul then described the additional legal fees that we are incurring as a result of collection efforts for non-payment of dues, and the Hicks lawsuit. Legal fees have gone \$3880 over budget for 2012. Pearl Klainberg moved, seconded by Martha Levites, to approve the expenditure of the additional \$3880 in legal fees for 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

3-Some members raised the issue of the Board and Membership meeting minutes not being up to date on the Goldensbrdge.org website. It was also pointed out that with Road 4 not coming out on a regular schedule, the minutes are not always available on a timely basis from that source. Martha Levites moved, seconded by Georgann Stewart, to have Road 4 published on a regular 4 times per year schedule, timed so that the previous minutes would be available before Membership meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

4-Committee reports:

Beach: Mera Eisen requested volunteers for the Beach committee.

Camp: Paul Stewart-Stand reported that the Camp committee would be meeting in the near future to evaluate the past year's Camp. Roads: Fred Margolies stated that community members who have road problems that impact them directly could call the Highway Department directly to request help.

5-Good & Welfare:

Eric Stand reported that the Fire Department will have a crew on, in 12 hour shifts for the impending storm, and that water and dry ice will be available at the Fire House.

Meeting adjourned, at 12:25 PM.

GBCA Board meeting minutes November 11, 2012

Present: Ron Arnstein, President; Mera Eisen, Vice President; Paul Stewart-Stand, Treasurer; Dan Fast, Secretary; Dorothy Shulman, Michael Brown, Chris Rietsch, Gerry Sircus, Jay Martin, Fred Margolies, Ken Finkelman, Martha Levites, Rina Slavin, John Bergherr.

Absent: Drew Orr

Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM

1-Minutes:

The minutes of the 10/14/12 Regular Board meeting were read, corrected, and accepted as corrected.

2-Committee Reports:

A-Road 4

Gerry requested that the Board provide an exact schedule for publishing Road 4 to coincide with approved Minutes. It was de-

cided that Road 4 will be published as soon as 3 months approved Board minutes have been accumulated.

B-Barn

Mike reported that the Barn basement floor section has been completed. The dumpster was filled with the debris from the old floor demolition by volunteer labor from the following Community members: Jay and Nicholas Martin, George and Drew Orr, Special thanks to Drew for the use of his backhoe, which greatly shortened the project. The old Nursery swing set was also demolished and put in the dumpster. Thanks to Martha Levites for procuring the dumpster.

3-Financial:

Paul reported as follows: As of 11/11/12: Assets in bank:

Checking:

M&T Camp: 9,458 \$ 64,085 \$ 73,543 M&T Checking: Total checking

Savings:

Regular savings: \$ 2.162 Capitol improvement: \$ 40,582 \$ Water Money Market at M&T 34,674 \$ **Total Savings:** 77,418 Total Assets: \$ 150,961

Financial issues:

The following members remain unpaid for 2012:

19 Pond St, Inc.: letter being sent, and matter being discussed with attorney.

Brennan: legal action being pursued. Camporeale: Ron will again try to contact. Decaudin - Property listed as a short sale.

Delgado: Paid half; promises the rest before year's end.

Fekete: No phone listed. Ron will knock on door.

Harris (on Colony water): Made another larger payment. Hom-Mansfield (owes for 2011 & 2012) Will be called again.

Rios - property is in foreclosure.

Shuldiner Soultanian

Second notices have been sent to all, and follow up calls made to most.

Total outstanding due to non-payments: \$13,880 for 2012; \$11,435 for previous years.

A donation of \$500 was made to the Goldens Bridge Fire Department in recognition of their veoman service after the hurricane.

4-Storm damage

The damage around the Community from the recent storm was discussed. In addition to numerous downed trees around the Colony, the volley ball court fence and the fence behind the Barn were damaged. Estimates for the repair of both will be gotten. John will check to see if our insurance covers that damage, and whether it pays to make a claim.

A discussion of disaster preparedness issues ensued, including the possible use of the Teen Center for shelter. An Emergency Planning committee, chaired by Martha and consisting of: Martha, Dorothy, Fred, Rina, and Mera was formed to evaluate this possibility and report back to the Board.

Ron described the situation with the water system in the aftermath of the storm. He was required by the BOH to purchase \$1400 worth of water (4 truckloads at \$350 each), and the BOH wants to force us to install a generator to supply emergency power. We have put

in a FEMA application for an emergency generator. During the power outage Drew ran a generator at the pump house to supply water to the community for a few hours per day.

Fred moved, seconded by Martha, to direct the Water committee to pursue obtaining a generator for the water system. Passed unanimously.

Mera moved, seconded by Gerry, to commend Ron and Drew for supplying water to the community during the aftermath of the storm. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

GBCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes—December 9, 2012

Present: Ron Arnstein, President; Mera Eisen, Vice President; Paul Stewart-Stand, Treasurer; Dan Fast, Secretary; Drew Orr, Michael Brown, Fred Margolies, Ken Finkelman, Martha Levites, Rina Slavin.

Absent: Dorothy Shulman, Gerry Sircus, Jay Martin, Chris Rietsch, John Bergherr

Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM

1- Minutes:

The minutes of the 11/11/12 Regular Board meeting were read, corrected, and accepted as corrected.

2- Financial:

Paul reported as follows:

As of 11/11/12:

Assets in bank:

Checkina: M&T Camp: \$ 6.955 \$ M&T Checking: 56,621 \$ Total checking 63.576 Savings: \$ Regular savings: 2.162 Capitol improvement: \$ 40.587 \$ Water Money Market at M&T 34,679 \$ **Total Savings:** 77,428 \$141,003 Total Assets:

Financial issues:

The following members remain unpaid for 2012:

19 Pond St, Inc.: letter being sent, and matter being discussed with attorney.

Brennan: legal action being pursued. Camporeale: Ron will again try to contact. Decaudin - Property listed as a short sale.

Delgado: Paid half; promises the rest before year's end.

Elias: Partial payment. Fekete: Trying to contact. Firdman: Partial payment.

Harris (on Colony water): Made another larger payment. Hom-Mansfield (owes for 2011 & 2012) Will be called again.

Rios - Property is in foreclosure. Paperwork has been found by their attorney; property is going up for auction: we need to file follow up liens.

Shuldiner Soultanian

Additional calls, etc. are being made, and another round of bills to be sent out.

Total outstanding due to non-payments: \$13,667 for 2012; \$11,435 for previous years.

The Financial committee met last week to discuss the handling of non-paying members. The committee needs further direction from the Board on the handling of some of these problems.

The Board discussed the Rios situation, and foreclosure procedure. Mera moved, seconded by Paul, to bring the Rios and Decaudin liens up to date, subject to the advice of our attorney, and to consult with our attorney about our rights in both situations, and the procedure for our handling of properties that are in foreclosure, with an expenditure not to exceed \$1500. Passed unanimously.

Paul brought up a \$6,000 item that has come up for the 2012 and 2013 years that was not budgeted. It was determined that this is a cost of \$6,000 per year for daily water testing, required by BOH. This was previously done on a volunteer basis, but is now part of the Water System maintenance. The going rate for this service is approximately double this amount, if it were done by an outside contractor.

Dan moved, seconded by Martha: Since water testing costs have increased by \$6,000 per year, which was not budgeted, the money shall be taken out of the Capitol budget for this year and next year. Passed unanimously. This will be reported on to the membership at the next regular Membership meeting.

4- Committee reports:

A- Water:

Drew reported that a properly sized propane fired generator (20 kilowatt), and a 500 gallon propane tank should cost about \$15,000 installed. He investigated diesel generators and found that they cost two to four times the cost of the propane units.

Since the BOH is mandating this installation, and threatening heavy fines for noncompliance, and winter weather is looming, we must move ahead as quickly as possible.

Ken moved, seconded by Martha, to bring this expenditure to the membership for a vote, passed unanimously.

It was the consensus of the Board to call an Emergency Membership meeting as soon as possible to obtain this approval. A meeting will be called for Sunday,

12/23/12.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

GBCA Special Executive Board Meeting Minutes – December 29, 2012

Present: Ron Arnstein, President; Paul Stewart-Stand, Treasurer; Dan Fast, Secretary; Drew Orr, Michael Brown, Fred Margolies, Martha Levites, Rina Slavin, Dorothy Shulman, John Bergherr,

Gerry Sircus.

Absent: Mera Eisen, Jay Martin, Chris Rietsch, Ken Finkelman.

Meeting called to order at 11:00 AM.

This meeting was called to discuss the question of the GBCA Right of First Refusal in the prospective sale of the Mcfadden house at 16 Pond Street.

Ron received a contract from Craig T. Bumgarner, P.C. for the sale of the McFadden house for \$155,000, to Mr. & Ms. Couli, with a request that the GBCA waive it's right of first refusal. Ron stated that Bob & Catherine Kingsley, who are on the GBCA list of prospective buy-

ers, have requested that we exercise our option so that they can purchase the property. The Kingsley's had rented at the McFadden house several years ago, and had at that time expressed interest in joining the community.

A discussion of whether to exercise our option ensued.

Dan moved, seconded by Martha, that the GBCA exercise it's option on the McFadden house with the requirements that the Kingsleys provide a certified check for \$155,000 for the purchase of the McFadden house, provide a notarized letter stating their intention to reside full-time in that house as their primary residence, and agree to pay all legal fees accruing from the sale. In favor: Ron, Dan, Martha, Rina, Dorothy, John, Mike, Gerry. Opposed: Paul. Abstaining: Fred, Drew.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

GBCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2013

Present: Ron Arnstein, President; Mera Eisen, Vice President; Dan Fast, Secretary; Drew Orr, Michael Brown, Fred Margolies, Ken Finkelman, Martha Levites, Dorothy Shulman, Gerry Sircus, Jay Martin, Chris Rietsch, John Bergherr

Absent: Paul Stewart-Stand, Treasurer, Rina Slavin

Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM

1-Minutes:

The minutes of the 12/9/12 Regular Board meeting were read, and accepted as read. The minutes of the 12/29/12 Special Board meeting were read, and accepted as read.

2-Ron described the situation with the McFadden house, with the people from the Colony list, the Kingsleys, unable to raise the purchase price within the required time frame. Dan moved, seconded by Gerry, to waive the right of first refusal. Motion passed unanimously.

3-Financial:

Dan reported for Paul as follows:

As of 1/9/13:

Assets in bank:

Checking:

	M&I Camp:	\$	4,397
	M&T Checking:	\$	28,168
Total checking		\$	32,565
Savings:			
	Regular savings:	\$	27,162
	Capitol improvement:	\$	41,104
	Water Money Market at M&T	\$	36,309
	Total Savings:	\$ -	104,575
	Total Assets:	\$ -	137,140

Financial issues: members in Arrears:

0		
Property	2012	Previous Years
19 Pond St, Inc.:	1946	
Brennan:	973	2537
Camporeale:	1946	
Delgado:	658	
Elias:	316	
Firdman:	239	
Hom-Mansfield:	985	905
Rios:	1946	6735
Shuldiner:	421	
Soultanian:	421	
Total Outstanding:	9849	10177

Dan reviewed Paul's analysis of the water user's daily chlorine water testing costs for this year, last year, and going forward, with the conclusion that the yearly increase in water user's costs due to the increased cost of water testing, will be approximately \$90 per unit. It was pointed out that this part of the testing has been done at no charge for the last twenty years.

4-Committee reports

A-Roads: Fred reported that the Town has recently worked on the roads with varying results, and recommended that individual community members with specific problems contact the Highway department directly.

B-Beach: Mera stated that she will be calling a meeting in February, and called for volunteers.

C-Barn: Mike reported that he had told the Ehnes' that the Colony would be removing the tree that came down on the barn property when the weather improves.

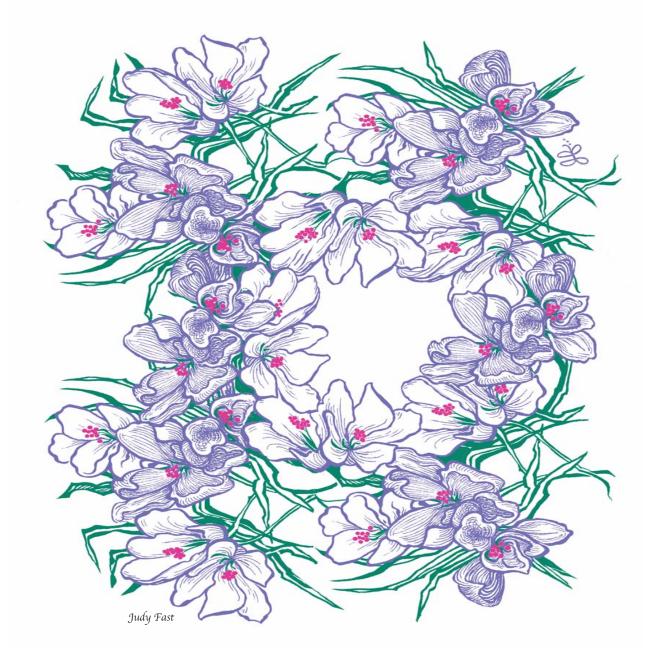
Mike stated that there is a need to build (re-build) two rooms in the Barn basement area where the floor was newly poured to provide a Camp office and storage.

D-Lake: Jay and Mike reported that the suction harvesting around the swimming area is on hold, and will probably have to be started over due to Town requirements. Paul Milliot is looking into other options.

E-Road 4: Gerry will be putting more pictures in coming issues due to the excellent reception for the ones that have been included.

F-Basketball court: Jay and Ken reported that there is money in the budget for additional improvements, and that the committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss re-paving and surfacing.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.



Road Four Winter 2013