



Sprongs Bluff Landowners Association
www.sprongsbluff.com

To: Sprongs Bluff Association Members
From: Doug Riter, 2008/09 Association President
Date: December 16, 2008
Subject: Update #2 from the Sprongs Bluff Association President

First of all let me open by wishing everyone a happy holiday! Several meetings and action steps have been taken since my last letter to everyone. I'm sure we all enjoyed the improved condition of the lower road this summer thanks to the job done by the town of Sodus. They provided millings, and the labor to scrape and roll the lower half of the main road. Thanks to Tom Garlipp and Bill Smith for facilitating this. Bev Garlipp sent a note of thanks on behalf of Sprongs Bluff landowners to Bill DuBois and the Town of Sodus. Discussions were also held about snow plowing this winter with assurances that we can count on the town for help with this.

At our Sept. 12th Executive Committee meeting, we met with Chuck McIntire who is an independent road contractor, to get answers to a number of questions that were raised during earlier discussions. Our questions centered around 1) maintenance and further improvement of the north/south main road and 2) what is the best approach to improving the east/west roads.

Chuck told us that a milled road can be graded, reapplied and rolled. With the town's assistance this might be done to maintain the main road in its current condition. If we wish to **improve** that section of roadway, (potholes are already appearing on the lower half of the main roadway), it would be necessary to again grade millings, add 3 layers of stone and then seal the road with oil. We received cost estimates from him which could be lowered if the town would help out by grading and rolling prior to putting in the new stone and oiling.

Discussion about the issues of improving a "state owned" road were held. The indication from our parks liaisons is that NO work or monies will be forthcoming in the near future (until they develop their strategic plan). To that end, Gabriel Saphar and I trekked to Lyons to meet with representative Bob Oaks to see if we could get some legislative support to help us maintain our roadway. Unfortunately on the day of our meeting, Bob was bitten by a dog while going door to door campaigning. Gabriel and I were told this meeting would need to be rescheduled. So far, due to the legislators being called back to Albany to work on the state budget crisis, we've not been able to reschedule this meeting. We will continue to pursue this.

We remain aware of the concerns raised by members regarding spending money on roadways owned by the state. After years and years of efforts to *maintain* the road (usually falling on the shoulders of a few neighborhood volunteers), this year's Executive Committee is interested in actually **improving** the road on a more permanent basis making maintenance and safety a more assured reality. The current plan is to continue to seek legislative help, to enlist the town in the

spring to grade and roll the road again for the summer 2009 season and to discuss the costs and plans for improvement at our summer meeting.

As for the east/west roads, some maintenance was done with temporary fill of the worst potholes on the west road (the east road seems to be in good and stable shape) at a cost of \$175 for gravel. In our discussion with Chuck regarding the main north/south road, we discussed scraping the surface to redistribute dirt from the edges, create a crown to encourage run off, establish a new cap with screened gravel and roll to pack firmly. The estimated cost would be \$3,800-\$4,200 with the possibility of lowering the costs by getting the town of Sodus to do some of the scraping and rolling.

Improvements to the west road were discussed and approved at the 2008 homeowners meeting and again, this year's Executive Committee is committed to improvement vs. maintenance. This might be more costly up front, but be more cost effective, permanent and a better solution in the long run. Because road maintenance is a constant issue (thorn in our sides) requiring efforts of only a few of our association members, it would be nice to effect more permanent solutions while pursuing negotiations with the state to explore their help and assistance.

The other issue discussed at our September 12th meeting was a set of by-laws drafted by Manfred Lichti. With the impending changes that may affect us due to state ownership of the orchard and commons areas, there has been discussion about the need for a more cohesive and organized association. It was decided that members of the Executive Committee would take more time to read the draft and make suggestions, with the intention of distributing a draft to the members of the association next spring prior to our annual meeting at which it could be further discussed and voted on.

Treasurer, Ed Saphar, reported that 29 of 35 (a record number) of association members have paid their annual dues. Efforts are being made to work toward 100% participation in order to be able to proceed with association projects. In addition to road work, we discussed improving the sign at the east/west split and it will also benefit us to have funds should it be necessary in the future to enlist the services of a lawyer to represent us in dealings with the state.

Congratulations to Bill Smith for a fine job in the Wayne Community Players recent production of Ragtime. Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season. Don't forget to visit the association website www.sprongsbluff.com (thank you Manfred and Amy Lichti for your work on this) and feel free to write, call me or e-mail me driter77@yahoo.com with any concerns, suggestions and/or news of interest.

Sincerely,

Doug

Doug Riter
2008 Association President