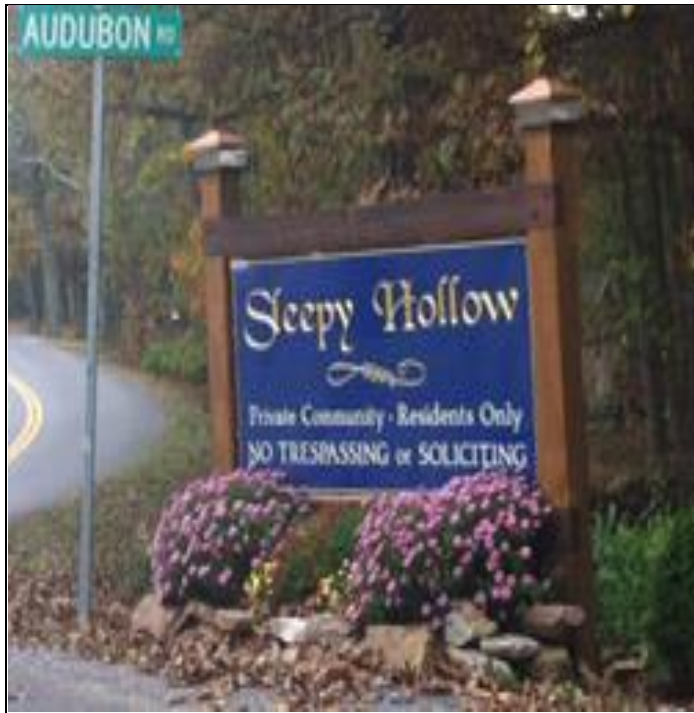


Sleepy Hollow Lot Owners Association Newsletter

www.shloa.com

Dec. 2023



SHLOA BOARD	EMAIL: sleepyhollowhoawv@yahoo.com
President	Rick Inclima
Vice President	C.J. Happel
Treasurer (eff.1/1/24)	Zoe Harris
VP Roads	Roger Brown
VP (eff.1/1/24) Communication	Rick Roscoe
VP Common Facilities	Rose Carpenter
Secretary	Amanda Cooper

SHLOA BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are regularly scheduled for the second Saturday of the month at 10:00am at the ball field during warm weather months. Owners are welcome to attend. However, during winter months the Board will meet at the home of a Board Member or virtually via ZOOM. If you have any questions regarding meetings of the Board, please contact the President at the phone number listed above or via email at the address below.

TO CONTACT THE BOARD: Please address all issues to the Board in writing.

Send your correspondence to:

SHLOA

65 Audubon Road

Hedgesville, WV 25427

email: sleepyhollowhoawv@yahoo.com

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE or Emergencies: Call 911

Morgan County Sheriff Non-emergency **304-258-1067**

Berkeley County Sheriff Non-emergency **304-267-7000**

State Police/Martinsburg **304-267-0000**

State Police/ Berkeley Springs **304-258-0000**

Div. of Natural Resources; Enforcement **304-267-0037**

Remember, SHLOA is not a law enforcement agency

You need to call the proper authorities when you need help.

FROM THE BOARD

PRESIDENT

As we close out 2023, I want to provide our residents some critical updates regarding the composition of the Board of Directors. I am pleased to announce that, based upon a unanimous vote and approval of the Board in September 2023, Zoe Harris will assume the position of SHLOA Treasurer effective January 1, 2024. Concurrently, effective January 1, 2024, our long-serving Treasurer Rick Roscoe will assume the position of VP Communications.

The position of Treasurer is critical to the function and operation of SHLOA. Rick Roscoe has performed the work of Treasurer with honor and distinction for many years. In fact, Rick has been an elected member of the Board of Directors for decades serving as President, Vice President, VP Roads and Treasurer throughout his long and distinguished career. However, there is a time and season for everything, and Rick has been an active and supportive voice in seeking out a qualified candidate to assume the position of Treasurer. Thankfully, the Board has found such a qualified candidate in Zoe Harris.

Zoe Harris was first elected to the Board of Directors in 2022, and since her election has served SHLOA with distinction as VP of Communications. From day one, she asked what more she can do to further serve the Board and our community. When Rick Roscoe raised the need to identify and train the next Treasurer, Zoe expressed an eagerness and enthusiasm to take on the challenge. Since her election in 2022, Rick has been training and mentoring Zoe for this transition to become Treasurer, and she has taken on more and more responsibility in the process.

From day one, I have been impressed by Zoe's intelligence, work ethic, enthusiasm, and community spirit. She has proven herself to be a quick study, honest and hardworking, and she cares deeply about our community and its residents.

Please join me and the Board in welcoming Zoe Harris as the next Treasurer of SHLOA. And also please join us in thanking our long-serving Treasurer Rick Roscoe for his decades-long dedication and service to the Board, for his training and mentoring efforts, and for his continued service as our new VP of Communications.

In closing, let me express my appreciation to the entire SHLOA Board for their ongoing efforts and professionalism in making Sleepy Hollow a great place to live and enjoy. It is a privilege to work alongside such smart and dedicated individuals. And thanks also to all our residents who have helped our community in big ways and small. Keep up the good work!

Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a great New Year ahead.

Rick Inclima

VP COMMON FACILITIES

Thank you to everyone who participated in the annual Trunk or Treat event held in the ballfield again this year. Approximately 100 residents, both young and old, participated. I received some great feedback from everyone stating they had a great time and were so pleased to see more participation this year. It was wonderful to see all the kiddos dressed up in costumes as well as some of our residents getting into the spirit by dressing up in costume, decorating their vehicles, and giving out candies and goodies.

I look forward to coordinating and participating in future community events. These events are a great way for all of us to get to know our neighbors and have some fun as well. I also want to personally thank community residents Belinda Oakes, Angel Howard, and their families for all the help they provided for this and other community events. Thank you for a job well done!

I welcome all ideas as well as assistance. If anyone wants to donate some of their time to help with events, etc., please consider joining the Common Facilities Committee or volunteering for a specific event. Interested residents are invited to contact me to exchange idea and/or to volunteer for future events.

Rose Carpenter

Snow Removal Contract Renewed for 2023-24 Season

We are pleased to announce that the Board has unanimously approved the snow removal bid submitted by Mountain Lake Landscaping, LLC. Mountain Lake Landscaping (MLL) was originally awarded the snow removal contract for the 2022-23 season. MLL's 23-24 bid came in at the same price and the same contractual provisions as last season. Given the price increases seen across the economy in recent years, as well as the quality of work provided by MLL, the decision to renew with MLL was determined by the Board to be in the best interest of Sleepy Hollow.

Please join the Board in once again welcoming Mountain Lake Landscaping as our snow removal contractor. Mountain Lake will follow Sleepy Hollow's long standing snow removal policy; a summary of which is published below.

Residents can help make snow removal by our contractor smooth and efficient by following the "How You Can Help This Winter" procedures published below.

Sleepy Hollow Snow Plowing Policy

SHLOA follows a long-established policy regarding the plowing of roads during winter weather. The policy, which is embedded in our snow removal contract, provides that roads are plowed whenever the depth reaches 3 inches anywhere in the development. We have unpaid volunteers checking on snow depth throughout the community, especially in the problem areas. Per the policy, roads will not be plowed when snowfall is less than 3 inches unless specifically authorized by our VP of Roads. Please drive carefully on winter roads and allow extra travel time during weather events.

SNOW REMOVAL

*****How You Can Help This Winter*****

- **Remove** all vehicles from the roadway to facilitate plowing and treatment of road surfaces.
- **Do not** park in cul-de-sacs because plow trucks need to turn around and need places to push snow.
- **Do not** attempt to plow roads yourself. This can damage the roads and impede drainage.
- **Do not** apply salt to unpaved roads; salt will create significant and costly damage and turn unpaved roads to mush.
- **Please** be patient with our contractors and the SHLOA Board; we are doing our best to provide these services.
- **Please** check in on your neighbors for their safety.

Thank you!

CAUTION: Do Not Apply Salt on Unpaved Roads

Unfortunately, there are limited options for dealing with ice on unpaved (dirt) roads. Ice cannot be plowed down to dirt level. The only viable option is to spread cinders. Salt CANNOT be used on dirt roads, it will make a bad situation MUCH, MUCH worse. There are cinder barrels placed throughout the neighborhood for resident's use on icy roads. Please avail yourself to some when ice is forecast.

Applying salt to dirt roads will make them mushy, muddy and virtually impassable. Such damage often requires the hiring of a contractor to excavate and resurface the area. SHLOA will have no choice but to hold persons spreading salt on our unpaved roads liable for such costs. Please do NOT apply salt on unpaved roads! Thank you and have a safe winter.

Reminders regarding ATVs and road use in Sleepy Hollow

The SHLOA Board would like to remind all residents and visitors that community roads are open to a variety of uses by both vehicles and pedestrians. At any given time, one can expect to encounter commuter/commercial vehicles, ATVs/off-road vehicles, pedestrians, kids, pets on leashes, as well as the abundant wildlife. **The speed limit is 20 mph on all roads.**

Never assume pedestrians hear vehicles approaching from behind. Always slow down and yield to pedestrians and any oncoming traffic. Please be aware that there are numerous culverts and drop-offs that can often be difficult to spot by ATV riders because of vegetation or fallen leaves. Injuries and accidents can occur during operation of ATVs/off-road vehicles. As such, ATV/off-road vehicle drivers must observe posted speed limits and at all times operate in a safe and responsible manner.

Additionally, the Board has received reports of off-road vehicles illegally accessing private property in Sleepy Hollow. Off-road vehicle/ATV operators must respect the property rights of others and not trespass on private property. ATV/off-road vehicle users are reminded that under WV law, lots less than 5 acres (all lots in Sleepy Hollow) that contain a dwelling house are considered "posted property" for the purpose of being prosecuted for trespass that carries a minimum \$100 fine. As such, property owners are not required to give notice by posting "No Trespassing" signs or to necessarily be present at the time of violation to report offenders to the police.

TRUNK OR TREAT 2023

Trunk or Treat festivities were held on October 28th at the ball field. Approximately 100 residents, both young and old, turned out to celebrate Halloween in a safe and family-friendly environment. Residents came supplied with plenty of candy and treats to share. A special thanks to VP of Common Facilities Rose Carpenter and her helpers for planning this fun and enjoyable event. And many thanks to all the families who participated and shared sweets and treats. A good time was had by all!



WEST VIRGINIA CODE

§20-2-58. Shooting across road or near building or crowd; penalty.

(a) In addition to any other prohibitions which may exist by law, it shall be unlawful for any person to shoot or discharge any firearms:

(1) Across or in any public road in this state, at any time;

(2) Within five hundred feet of any school or church; or

(3) Within five hundred feet of any dwelling house: *Provided*, That a person who is a resident of a dwelling house, and his or her authorized guest, may shoot or discharge a firearm in a lawful manner within five hundred feet of the dwelling house where the person lives, if the firearm is being discharged with the express or implied knowledge and consent of all residents of that dwelling house, and no other dwelling houses are located within five hundred feet of where the firearm is discharged; or

(4) On or near any park or other place where persons gather for purposes of pleasure.

(b) Any person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than \$500 or confined in jail for not more than one hundred days, or both fined and confined.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any person operating a gun repair shop, licensed to do business in the State of West Virginia and duly licensed under applicable federal statutes, may be exempted from the prohibition established by this section and section twelve, article seven, chapter sixty-one of this code for the purpose of test firing a firearm. The director of the Division of Natural Resources shall prescribe such rules as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the exemption under this section and section twelve, article seven, chapter sixty-one and shall ensure that any person residing in any dwelling home within five hundred feet of such gun repair shop be given an opportunity to protest the granting of such exemption. *Note: WV Code updated with legislation passed through the [2013 1st Special Session](#). The WV Code Online is an unofficial copy of the annotated WV Code, provided as a convenience. It has not been edited for publication, and is not in any way official or authoritative.*

ALWAYS WEAR SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF BLAZE ORANGE DURING HUNTING SEASON, EVEN ON SUNDAYS!

Also, please don't let your pets roam, especially during hunting season. Both Morgan and Berkeley counties have leash laws, please follow them and help keep your pets and your neighbors safe.

*****Gypsy Moth (Lymantria Dispar) Survey Results*****

As announced in our 3rd Quarter 2023 Newsletter, in response to resident's concerns the SHLOA Board approved participation in the WV Dept. of Agriculture's (WVDOA) gypsy moth egg mass survey program. Our neighbors in the Woods Resort also participated in the survey.

By letter dated November 21, 2023, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture advised that SHLOA's application to participate in the 2023 Cooperative Lymantria dispar (Gypsy Moth) Suppression Program had been reviewed and a site visit to conduct an egg mass count has been completed. The WVDOA site visit and review confirmed that spraying for control of Gypsy Moths (aka, Spongy Moth) in Sleepy Hollow is justified based upon the egg mass survey results.

Requirements for inclusion in the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program include “a minimum of 500 egg masses per acre for residential property, 500 egg masses per acre for timberland, 30% suitable host trees and 50% crown cover within the proposed treatment block.”

The WVDOA advised that Sleepy Hollow has egg mass counts as high as 3217 egg masses per acre. This is significantly above the 500 egg masses per acre minimum for participation in the suppression program. There are two aerial treatment options available through the suppression program:

1. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BTK) will provide foliage protection, **except** in high egg mass densities (“high mass densities is defined as above 1200 egg masses per acre).
2. MIMIC (Tebufenozide) will provide foliage protection **AND** egg mass reduction **even** in high egg mass densities (i.e., above 1200 egg masses per acre).

BTK is a bacterium commonly found in forest soils worldwide. It has become one of the most valuable biological pest management tools for a variety of agricultural, forestry, and urban pests. While it is highly toxic to target pests, it is very safe in regard to humans and animals. For example, different formulations of the same biopesticide are labeled to be applied to organic grains such as shelled corn and soybeans during storage and/or to organic bagged grains (popcorn) to prevent Indian meal moth. (Source, WVDOA brochure, www.agriculture.wv.gov)

Mimic® (Tebufenozide) is a pesticide in the class of insect growth regulators. This means that, once exposed to tebufenozide, caterpillars are unable to successfully molt and grow. This prevents them from reaching maturity and reproducing. Tebufenozide may be applied by air or ground. It is successful on all population densities. (Source, WVDOA brochure, www.agriculture.wv.gov)

In agriculture, tebufenozide is also used to protect many crops from caterpillar pests; this product is known as Confirm®, and is used to protect fruits, vegetables, and many field crops from harmful caterpillar pests. Mimic does not affect any other orders of insects, including honey bees, native bee pollinators, ants, wasps, beetles, dragonflies, grasshoppers, or flies. Spring defoliating forest insects occur earlier, or are in different locations than many of the attractive butterflies (such as the monarch butterfly) that are associated with pastures, parkland, and roadside areas. Mimic also does not affect beneficial insect parasites, parasitoids, and predators that help to naturally control the populations of the forest defoliator pests.... Mimic has no direct effect on birds as they do not have the insect ecdysone hormone which is triggered by Mimic; and exposure to the spray or consumption of affected larvae by birds has no direct impact upon them either.... Additionally, Mimic has no impact upon wild or domesticated animals, or upon fish or amphibians.... Mimic has no effect upon vegetation or soil organisms.... Mimic has no impact upon humans.... (Source, PA Dept. of Agriculture Fact Sheet, www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/HabitatManagement/Documents)

Given the very high egg mass count documented within the confines of Sleepy Hollow, the Board of Directors has approved funding for treatment of our 856 acres with MIMIC. Likewise, due to similarly high egg mass counts, the Board of Director’s at the Wood Resort has reportedly also approved treatment of their 800+ targeted acres with MIMIC.

According to the WVDOA, the spongy moth (previously known as the gypsy moth) is the most serious insect pest ever to invade West Virginia's forests. The first adult male spongy moths were trapped in West Virginia in 1972. The first caterpillars were found in 1978. Since then, this destructive insect has continued to spread, while funding to combat the pest has been difficult to maintain. These circumstances created the need for a spongy moth cooperative suppression program for landowners in the generally infested areas in West Virginia (including Morgan and Berkeley Counties).

Severe economic loss of valuable timber, significant impact on outdoor recreational opportunities in heavily infested areas, adverse effects on some forms of wildlife through food loss and changes in habitat, and destruction of the aesthetic beauty of our forested communities are expected results of the onslaught of the spongy moth. In addition, a health problem, in the form of an allergic reaction, may occur in a few people when they come in contact with large numbers of spongy moth caterpillars.

Per the WVDOA, repeated heavy defoliation by spongy moth kills trees. Spruce, pine and hemlocks die after a single heavy defoliation. **Hardwood tree mortality, after two successive years of defoliation, can reach as high as 80%. The forest trees preferred by this insect are oaks, and the oak-hickory type makes up about 77% of West Virginia's woodlands.** Studies by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and West Virginia Division of Forestry confirm that as much as 25 percent mortality after one year of heavy defoliation could be expected in timber stands if spongy moth populations are left untreated.

If as a lot owner you object to treatment, please send written notice to SHLOA with your full name and contact information (mailing address, SHLOA property address, phone number, email address, section/lot number, and area concerns) via mail to SHLOA, 65 Audubon Road, Hedgesville, WV 25424 or via email at Sleepyhollowhoawv@yahoo.com. Please put Gypsy Moth in the subject line of your email. SHLOA will share your correspondence with the WVDOA.

For additional information about the threat of gypsy moth infestation, and the efficacy and safety of treatment options, please contact the WV Dept. of Agriculture or visit their website at www.agriculture.wv.gov.

NOTICE

SHLOA's **Policy Guidelines and House Rules for Rental Units** are applicable to all rentals within Sleepy Hollow. The Guidelines and House Rules are posted on our website at www.shloa.com. Owners may also request a copy of the Guidelines and House Rules via email at Sleepyhollowhoawv@yahoo.com or by U.S. mail to SHLOA, 65 Audubon Road, Hedgesville, WV 25427.

Need A Mailbox?

If you need a mailbox at the ball field, or have questions regarding your mailbox, please contact SHLOA Treasurer Zoe Harris at the number listed on page 1 of this newsletter, or send an email to Sleepyhollowhoawv@yahoo.com

Additional Mailboxes Installed

Due to the growth of our community, the Board recently approved the purchase of two additional banks of mailboxes. The additional mailboxes have been installed at the ball field to accommodate our growing community. This installation expands our capacity by an additional 32 mailboxes.

Open Burning in WV

Know The Law: Open Burning of Garbage is Illegal

It's the law: [45CSR6 Control of Air Pollution from Combustion of Refuse](#)

Every time we burn outdoors, we contribute to air pollution in our area. Whether it's waste from yards, home, businesses, or land-clearing, it all adds up to unhealthy air.

Materials Illegal to Open Burn

- Household trash (burn barrels and/or piles) including paper products - such as cardboard, boxes, etc.
- Construction, building, or demolition materials (examples: lumber, flooring, roofing material, carpet, plastic, Styrofoam, etc.)
- Wood pallets and other packaging materials
- Tires or other rubber products
- Asbestos-containing materials **including** building materials
- Insulation from copper wire
- Waste paints, waste oil, or solvents

Exceptions

Certain kinds of open burning are still allowed if it doesn't create a nuisance and if it is not prohibited by local ordinances. These types of fires are allowed:

- Vegetation (leaves, branches and other vegetative matter) grown on the premises of a home or farm.
- Campfires and outdoor barbecues
- DAQ approved open burning of land clearing debris described in this pamphlet
- DAQ approved fire training as described in this pamphlet

Violations

If in violation of the open burning law, 45CSR6, refusal to comply may result in a Notice of Violation and/or a fine of up to \$10,000 a day.

Forest Fire Season

During the forest fire seasons, **March 1 to May 31 and October 1 to December 31**, no open burning may be conducted between the hours of **7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.** unless a burning permit is obtained from the Division of Forestry and the proper permit fees paid. Also, approval is always required to be obtained from the Division of Air Quality for the open burning of land clearing debris, please contact your local DAQ office for assistance.

Be a Good Neighbor

It is never legal to impact your neighbors with smoke, ash or odors. Always consider the time of day, proximity to others, type of material, wind direction and other weather conditions such as air stagnation.

Not the Same Ol' Trash

Burning household waste is a serious threat to public health and the environment. Toxic chemicals, including dioxins, are produced when household waste is burned. One household burn barrel emits more dioxin than a municipal waste incinerator serving thousands of homes. Burning of debris can cause another problem ... **Forest Fires.**

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Many items that are burned in a trash pile or burn barrel can often be recycled. Newspapers, glass, cardboard and many plastics can be recycled. Grass clippings and leaves are ideal to add to a compost pile. Your old attic junk could be given away for someone else to reuse. Check in the back of your local telephone directory for recycling information and sites in your area.

Free Local Landfill Garbage Collection Days

West Virginia's Municipal Sanitary Waste Landfills are required to have free monthly household garbage "dump" days.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

