

OHA Winter Newsletter, 2021-22

We hope you have been staying warm and safe during our winter weather. The cold, snowy weather will be with us for a while, so keep yourself well-stocked at home, and stay home if it is too dicey for driving. Norm Flint is plowing the roads as needed. We have had a lot of blowdown from the wind, and we appreciate the efforts of members like Phil Schulz who cleared fallen branches from blocking Tall Trees Trail. Member involvement in storm cleanup and the annual neighborhood cleanup is much appreciated.

We are happy to report that Steve Pettyjohn has volunteered to fill out the remainder of the term of a member who resigned recently due to an overload of work. There will be two positions open on the board this June, so anyone who might be interested can contact our nominations committee chair Jens Kruse at jkruse@wellesley.edu.

For the first part of our fire mitigation work, we are targeting Highlands, Colorado, Tall Trees Trail, and the south common area. Fire generally travels uphill, so we are starting with the lowest areas first. The work involving homeowner attention will be the clearing of problem trees and brush along the roadsides within the association's right of way. We will be contacting the owners of homes in those areas to explain exactly what this will entail so that there will be no surprises. Don't worry, we won't be removing large, healthy trees. We hope to visit with you in person and walk your property with you. And if you have an interest in helping on this committee, we welcome volunteers and would ask you to contact David Turnoy at davidgeri@rockisland.com.

As part of the fire mitigation effort, we recently applied for a grant of up to \$7,500 from the San Juan Islands Conservation District. We feel strongly that our plan fits in very well with what the Conservation District is trying to accomplish, therefore we are hopeful of receiving an award.

When the weather permits, we will burn the piles that are currently sitting in the burn area. Once we have done that, here is how we would like to proceed. In order to keep our burn practice safe and to stay within the restrictions of our burn permit, we ask that you contact the board first if you are interested in burning. Bob Burke at 360-375-6241 is our lead person on this, but other board members will be helping him with this. We plan to have a board member present to supervise the process. And we are hoping to have a spring clean-up, hopefully in May, when volunteers come out to clean up the yard debris. But rather than make this a one-day event, we think it will work a lot better if we do it over a two-week period.

Our most recent meeting focused significantly on the recent heavy rains and drainage issues. Our roads committee will be working on a comprehensive plan to deal with this. We welcome volunteers to join the three board members currently on this committee. You can email David Turnoy at davidgeri@rockisland.com if you are interested in helping out.

Thanks for reading, and we wish you a happy and healthy new year!
The OHA Board