HOUSE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 7, 2026

PRESENT: Donna Mae Donahue, Jane Fargo, Linda Fraser, Mary Hamblett, Mark Jenks, Norm Miner, Sue Mitchell, Cheryl Roy, Nicole Valente, Irmgard Weber, and Carole Wisser

The meeting was called to order at 9 AM by Chair Mary Hamblett.

MSV: minutes of the September 2, 2026 meeting

AREA REPORTS:

300 Area: Linda Fraser reported all is well in the 300's. She invited all to visit the area's carved pumpkin display. The injured squirrel is still around. A Harvest Meal is planned for October 17. There are a few residents interested in working on ideas for conserving energy.

400 Area: Diane Drescher was away but had stated she had nothing to report.

500 Area: Carole Wisser introduced Jane Fargo, a new resident to the area. Carole noted that residents have been pleased with all the compliments on how the area looks. A problem was noted about outside lighting; when someone walks from the parking lot the bright outside light comes on but when going around a corner of cottages it is quite dark and she wondered if the light could be redirected.

She asked how leaves would be collected this year; Mark stated crews would use blowers and then vacuum leaf piles into trucks. Residents can pile up leaves in places where trucks can go.

Carole stated her gutter has a guard and asked if it could be removed so the gutter could be cleaned.

600 Area: Cheryl Roy thanked Maintenance and residents for their work in caring for yards. She noted the mowing was done well this year. She asked about painting of their doors but Mark responded it will be done next year as it is getting too cold. Cheryl reported there had been a survey of what lightbulbs needed replacing in each unit; the information was put into MaintainX and accomplished in one day. Residents will have a Soupfest on October 16. She asked when the 2027 budget would be completed; Nicole replied it has been done and information will be out next week.

Lodge: Norm Miner reported no issues; residents appreciate the landscaping work on the grounds.

200 Area: Donna Mae Donahue reported for the area that all was going well.

100 Area: Irmgard Weber reported the walking path from the 103-104 cottages to the parking lot has had the grass and dirt washed away on each side causing a safety issue. She asked if there was a budget for Main Street as she has been caring for the plants and has purchased soil and fertilizer on her own. Cheryl noted the House and Grounds Committee used to have funds in the resident budget and she should check with the Treasurer. Linda Fraser commented there is a row of shrubs by the perennial garden that need fertilizer; Mark stated those funds would come from the landscaping budget; he will speak with Ron.

Sue reported there is a large tree by the end of the Lodge whose branches are hanging low and it needs to be checked. Irmgard also has a bush in need of trimming and noted that squirrels have been chewing on her ramp. It was suggested she spray it with bug spray.

It was asked if the “red stake” system of signaling that residents would care for their own gardens was still in effect. Mark responded that was for flower gardens but Landscaping would do all the pruning of trees and bushes for winter.

Nicole Valente’s Report

The pickleball court is closed this week for repairs and painting. It should be open again next week and if not, she will send out an email.

She noted that with holiday season arriving there will be many packages and urged residents to to be patient. Staff have found residents on the loading dock and inside the sorting area; this is dangerous and not allowed. If a resident needs a package right away they should go to the receptionist.

The winter snow clearing program will be starting up; information will be sent out.

She will have an Administrator’s Chat Thursday, the 15th, at 1:30.

She will be reminding residents to follow speed limits on the campus - 5, 10, or 15mph in different areas, and to advise any guests as well.

With the start of respiratory illness season she urged residents to stay home if they are not feeling well and to wear a mask. There had been a sign warning of illness in the HSC but it was just that some residents had colds. She will send out emails if there is cause for concern.

Mark Jenks’ Report

The fall workload schedule is beginning - removing air conditioners, draining water, etc. There have been many work orders coming in. It was asked if it was possible to authorize a “Permission to Enter” through MaintainX but it can’t be done at this time. Residents would need to go to the Receptionist to fill out the form. The IT Department will try to make an authorization work with our system.

He was asked if the caps had been installed on all deck posts; about half have been done and he has had to order more. He was also asked if there is a list made about utility sheds that need to be raised so that residents can get into them in winter. He needs a list of those sheds that need raising. Linda Fraser offered to ask Ray Watson if he would be willing. Cheryl Roy asked if snow in the 600s could be pushed to an area that wouldn’t damage bushes.

Mary Hamblett had asked for ideas on saving energy; many expressed interest in some type of solar panels. Nicole will speak with Tracy Judd to see if there is any federal funding available, but Tracy is currently busy with budget work.

A suggestion was made that resident families might want to contribute to some type of wish list projects.

Nicole felt there could be a lot accomplished initially by educating residents on energy conservation awareness, i.e. turning off lights and air conditioning when away, with a type of checklist brochure. Mark stated there is a meter in nearly every area. There may be a way to announce how much has been saved.

Linda Fraser suggested forming such a committee of a few interested residents from each area to meet and discuss ideas of education, such as a brochure. It was decided to hold a meeting on Wednesday, October 21 at 9:00 am.

Ron will be invited to the January Committee meeting to review his landscaping plans for 2027.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia McLeod