

# Common property and Forest Committee

## 2009 Annual Committee Report

March 7, 2010

### Membership:

Dan Webb – Chairman  
Roy Lang – Vice Chairman  
Steve Romine  
Ruth Kosoglow  
Beverly Thompson  
David Cohen  
Bruce Caverly

### Board Liaisons:

Jeff Atkins

### Staff Representatives:

Steve White – Planning & Inspections Director  
Brenda Pate - Secretary

The CPFC in 2009 had two committee members resign. Two applicants were interviewed for each position and two very capable applicants were placed. We welcomed David Cohen and Beverly Thompson to the committee.

Request for permits in 2009 were very slow due to slow new home starts and the economy, which is one in the same. During the year we routinely handled resident requests to clean up common property (Class I), cut trees on common property (Class II), and dredge lake bottoms around boat docks (Class III). Investigated complaints pertain to the misuse of common property. The following is a summary of permits issued with pre and post inspections completed.

### CP&FC Issued January 2009 to December 2009

Class I Permits	8
Class II Permits	4
Class III Permits	0
Complaints	6
Annual Maintenance Agreements	– 5
Total of all permits and complaints handled in 2009	- 23
2008	– 25, 2007 – 35, 2006 – 49, 2005 – 31

We had an increase in Class I and Maintenance Agreements in 2009, and a decline in Class II and complaints. The total number of requests was down by two for 2009. The misuse of common property was handled by a majority of the CPFC members reviewing the situation and visiting the site along with Sam Harper, the complaint investigator and Steve White from the Planning and Inspection Department. All were resolved and brought back into compliance with common property policy and guidelines.

The CPFC tracks deer incident reports through reports from the Public Safety Department.

### Deer Incident Reports and History

2001 – 16	2005 – 35	2009 - 64
2002 – 21	2006 – 49	
2003 – 21	2007 – 82	
2004 – 33	2008 – 73	

Our annual deer count conducted each year by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) indicates a marked increase in deer population over the last two years. The Public Works Department reported that 50% of all auto accidents within the village are due to car/deer accidents. This increase most likely can be attributed to the following factors:

- 1.) Increase in the number of residents and traffic on our roadways
- 2.) Expanding population base at the east end of the Village
- 3.) Most car/deer incidents occurred during the August to January timeframe with 56 of the 73 incidents. This is the time when deer are most active.
- 4.) It is estimated that we have a population of 3500 deer.
- 5.) It must also be stated that a large number of deer accidents are not reported.

Due to the increased population of deer within the village, and complaints from homeowners and vehicle owners, it was time to consider a game management plan within the village. After discussions with AGFC and staff, and carefully considering a number of options, it was decided that a controlled deer hunt with bow and arrow would be the best alternative to controlling the deer herd. A plan was put together by staff, Public Safety and AGFC and presented to the POA Board of Directors and approved for a controlled 2 week hunt in September 2009. The deer hunt was successful in that no violations were reported during the two weeks of the hunt. A total of 226 deer permits were issued and an estimated 40 hunters participated. A total of 164 deer were killed with the first doe being donated to Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry (110 does were killed). The donations amounted to 16,000 meals for the needy.

The **Forest Management Plan** for thinning pine trees on common property has completed Phase VI and Phase VII is currently being marked. Due to the economic downturn, the price of timber has declined. As we move to smaller common property tracts, we have chosen to work with a small timber contractor, who is capable of moving into these areas with smaller equipment and causing less damage to the forest floor. So far this has worked our very well for both the POA and the contractor. To date, this program has generated in excess of \$650,000 to the POA General Fund.

We continue to work with the ACC and Lakes and Water Management Committee on issues of common interest and have had good cooperation.

We will lose one member of our committee in March 2010. Roy Lang will be moving on to other volunteer for other programs in the Village. We appreciate his service and Vice Chairman contributions and wish home good luck on his next endeavors. Two candidates were interviewed to replace Roy and a recommendation has been made to the Board of Directors.

A **Firewise Community**, which is headed by Henry Browder, was again approved by the State for 2010. This is due to the POA cutting along all roads, residents keeping debris away from home sites, and payments to Bill Walker, the retired forester that oversees the thinning projects.

In closing, the committee would like to sincerely thank Brenda Pate, our secretary, Sam Harper, our complaint investigator, and Steve White, Planning & Inspections Department Director for all their help and assistance during this past year. Their prompt handling of agendas, meeting minutes, permit request submissions, complaint resolutions, and replies to residents have been exceptional.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dan Webb*

Dan Webb  
Chairman, Common property & Forest Committee  
March 8, 2010

This report submitted to: POA Board of Directors

With copies to: CPFC Members  
Brenda Pate, Steve White