

A pessimist, they say, sees a glass of water as being half empty; an optimist sees the same glass as half full. But a giving person sees a glass of water and starts looking for someone who might be thirsty.

– G. Donald Gale

We all live in and love Aberdeen for our own reasons. Whether it be family, friends, neighbors, or a sense of community, we love where we live.

Your current Aberdeen Board would like to encourage this sense of community spirit. If COVID has taught us anything, it is that community and engagement is extremely important to our health and mental health. We miss our friends. Our families.

We would like to encourage all residents to join us in our volunteer spirit. The link below is a blog that exemplifies our passion. All volunteers that are passionate know that volunteering is sometimes not easy but can be extremely rewarding <https://www.heifer.org/blog/the-spirit-of-volunteerism.html>

After consulting with many residents and getting their input, ideas and thoughts, we intend to encourage formation of new committees that people are passionate about. These committees will be supported by your Aberdeen Board and encouraged to engage in community activity however they see fit. There are no strict guidelines on how the committees will be run. We are just helping to form and encourage.

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.

– Antoine de Saint Exupery

Committee Requirements:

Each committee will be run by volunteers who have passion for engaging in community activity.

Each committee will recruit their own members with the help of our website and newsletters and create community activities throughout the year.

Each committee will report to the Board annually with an update of activity and future plans.

Each committee will work to become financially independent within two years through their own fundraising events and ideas.

Member limit suggestions would be as little as three persons to as many as ten or more.

Board Requirements:

The Board will encourage engagement and welcome ideas and proposals from committees.

The Board will provide guidelines for formation and successful practices.

The Board commits to financial seed money to encourage community activity throughout Aberdeen. Each committee will receive \$500 in seed money to use however they see fit.

The Board will create a "committee charter," outlining the parameters and expectations for each committee. This will have a clear sense of direction and scope of authority.

As your Board, we have a responsibility to protect your financial interests and not spend any money unwisely. We need to be prudent and invest in our community. We believe that this is a wise investment and have found the monies within the budget to do so.

Here are the committees that need volunteers:

Aberdeen Youth Activities and Social committee:

The goal and purpose of this Committee is to bring the fun out of each young adult member in our community. We will need to be more strategic with practicing social distancing and making sure each homeowner's safety is a number one priority. The goal of the social committee is to help direct and organize fun activities with our families and friends. We are open to suggestions and volunteers to make events big or small happen for a wide range of neighborly gatherings and group fun for everyone.

Examples of a first goal would be a youth Carnival on the Village Green or a movie night or a night bike ride? Water Balloon team bracket contest? Inflatable Sumo Body Bubble contest? Support the Kindness Rocks Project (See Aberdeen Rocks Valpo on Facebook)? The possibilities are endless.

Aberdeen Adult Activities and Social committee:

The goal and purpose of the Activities Committee is to bring the fun out of each adult member in our community. We will need to be more strategic with practicing social distancing and making sure each homeowner's safety is a number one priority. The goal of the social committee is to help direct and organize fun activities with our families and friends. We are open to suggestions and volunteers to make events big or small happen for a wide range of neighborly gatherings and group fun for everyone.

Example would be a six-foot distance euchre club or a movie night on the Village Green. Maybe an Oktoberfest celebration? Maybe yoga? Organized run or walk?

Aberdeen Concert Series Committee:

The goal and purpose of this Committee is offering a fun, affordable and family-friendly Concert Series that features exciting bands for our community on the Village Green. This year's lineup was a success with something for everyone with lots of local artists and new headliners too. In the future, a variety of food and beverages will be available for purchase at all events in support of our local businesses. Currently the concerts are Wednesday nights for ten consecutive weeks throughout the summer. This Series is growing, and it needs valuable volunteers with a passion for music for it to continue to be successful.

Aberdeen Gardening Committee:

The purpose of this Committee is to encourage residents to be involved in the planning, designing, planting, and caring for exterior flora and researching the costs for suitable shrubs and other horticultural specimens for upgrading.

Walking the property with the landscape contractor and our management company twice a year in the spring and fall to identify maintenance work needed around the property would be suggested.

Committee members are free to form their own mission but an "Adopt a Highway" mentality has been suggested and might be a nice place to start. Maybe start with "Adopt the Fountain"?

Aberdeen Safety Committee:

The purpose and objective of this committee is to define and recommend policy and procedure to the Aberdeen Board any issues related to improving, establishing, and enforcing Safety & Security for homeowners, visitors, and property of Aberdeen.

The committee has been created to provide input / recommendations to the Aberdeen Board and management, but do not have authority to direct management or the Aberdeen Board.

The general purpose of the committee is to serve as the Aberdeen eyes and ears of the association, working with homeowners and management to ensure the community's sense of safety & security through open access and communication.

First goal would be to establish a neighborhood watch program following the guidelines and support of the Porter County Sherriff.

If you have ideas on forming another Committee or would like to be on one of these committees, please reach out to Christine Zorich at czorich@1stpropertymanagers.com at 1st American Management to show your interest.

Please include your name, your contact information and what committee you might like to join/create.

We look forward to hearing from you.

At your service,

Your Aberdeen Board