

IN THE BEGINNING

by Tomi Karfunkel

Saul has provided a superior description of the birth of our community. I will try to avoid duplication & focus on items not touched upon or not fully developed in his narrative.

1. The original group was an “All Volunteer Army” & everyone dedicated all of its available time to the cause. There were many disagreements & disputes & usually a consensus emerged. We were “blessed” with the presence & participation of strong-willed personalities who claimed knowledge on all subjects. I am still amazed how we were able to reconcile, resolve & solve a minefield of issues.
2. My friends concluded that I had more available time than anyone else (a very distorted perception of the heavy work load of a professor) & that is how I emerged as the Coordinator- a temporary position that lasted a long time.
3. The funding of the project required both the securing of a mortgage & the sale of shares. Even though we established a Screening Comm. for admitting new shareholders, the Comm. only rejected one candidate throughout its existence.
4. Inasmuch BL was outside the village of Monticello, we had to develop our own Water & Sewer system. (Digging wells, sewer treatment field, individual septic tanks, etc.) There were both positives & negatives about this arrangement.
5. There were bungalows on both sides of the road. Some of the originals felt that the rehab of these units was more economical than building a house. A lottery was organized & ten shareholders actually took from these units their homestead (7 in the “O” cluster, 2 in “D” & 1 on the other side) In retrospect it was not a good idea. We also repaired the bungalows on the other side for rentals. It was one of our solid achievements that many of these renters

eventually became shareholders. To complete the bungalow circle we actually built R-14 A & B which consisted of 2 two bedroom units.

6. We rehabilitated some of the facilities in massive disrepair. The pools, we added a kiddie pool later, the house for the Caretaker, the Camp House (still in use), the Pool-filter House & the ready to collapse Boat House by the lake. The Main Bldg invited emotional debates. It was reasonably sound & impressively ugly. Some wanted to replace it. In a critical decision the arsonists lost.

7. In addition to the Main Contractor, described by Saul, we had to deal with a great variety of other professionals. The Surveyor, the electrician, the Supplier of water tanks for the wells, the P.E. certifying, the Town Building Inspectors, Pavers, Our own experts, etc.

8. We were concerned about security, we hired a neighbor who was a security guard at one of the hotels, to monitor the grounds. He & the Caretaker became bitter enemies, with each threatening to kill the other. (Just a footnote.)

9. We established some Basic Laws to guide the growth of our community;

A. we will be a Modern Orthodox community; on the Sabbath no tennis playing will be allowed (using a tool/instrument), volleyball will be allowed (no instrument), there will be mixed swimming, no dress code for the ladies, etc.

B. the community will subsidize the Day Camp, each family will pay 1 camper tuition even if there was no camper (a forerunner of Board subsidy).

C. all shareholders (the originals & the additional) will be equal

D. English will be the official language of the community, Hungarian will be spoken at the pool, in shul & in private residences.

10. Very Important. A secret ballot was taken – in the tradition of Athenian direct democracy - & Minhag Sefard was established as the style of davening.