



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 27, 2011

Location: Gary and Annie Margadant's Residence Mount Veeder Road Napa

Time: 10:00 am

Members Present: Greg Holquist (Chair), Gary Green (Treasurer), Bill Robertson (Secretary), Gary Margadant, Carol Roche, Jock Eggers, Wayne Cain, Beth Dewyer, Kelly Wallace

Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes from February meeting approved as read

Chair Person Report: Greg Holquist deferred the Chair of the Board report to allow Kelly Wallace to speak first on what he had to report.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Green had nothing to report but Greg Holquist gave him the receipt for the computer purchase and for hats and shirts. Kelly Wallace wanted to get the Quickbook accounting records to Steve Gort of the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation as soon as possible. Gary Green said he will get those records over to Kelly Wallace as soon as possible.

Committee Reports:

CWPP: Greg Holquist allowed Kelly Wallace to speak first regarding the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) since he had to leave the meeting early to attend another engagement. Kelly had not distributed the final draft of the CWPP to the members for final editing before it becomes a signature ready document. He promised to get this draft out to the group today. Once the members of the Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council come to a consensus, Kelly will get the required signatures which include our County Board of Supervisors who have jurisdiction, Tim Streblov The County Fire Chief, Pete Munoa, the County Fire Marshal, Gary Green the Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department Chief and who ever else that may be required.

Grant Application Committee: Gary Margadant and Russell Van Dewark walked the north end of the Old Ridge Rd. Gary Margadant said they met the gentleman that is working for Aaron Potts to put in his vineyard. It was Garys feeling that he could be another resource to utilize for fuel reduction projects. Bill Robertson went over with the group some of the concerns that Russell Van Dewark had on the projects and shared the answers he had to Russells questions regarding shaded fuel breaks and community concerns. Greg Holquist stated that we need to have a project and Bill said yes but all of our projects need community and private property owner permission and cooperation. Gary Margadant has the maps from Don Gasser and said he can talk to John Lovie the Fire Planner of the Calfire Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit to have him develop maps with contour lines and where these proposed shaded fuel breaks could be located. He feels once people can see them and understand what they are and why, the people in the community would be more receptive to the concept. Kelly Wallace said he would draft a boiler plate draft of a letter that would go out to property owners who own portions of an old fire road to obtain permission to do fuel reduction work on their property. Bill Robertson shared an old article from the Dry Creek-Lokoya Fire District Newsletter that gave a partial explanation of the origins of the old fire road network. Bill suggested that we should do a small pilot project to do a sample shaded fuel break on a cooperating property owners property. Perhaps Carole Meredith or Dan Galvin would be willing to be participants. That way we can get a start on the project and be able to show people what it is we are trying to accomplish. Bill Robertson, Gary Margadant and possibly Russell Van Dewark are registered to attend the Grant Writing Workshop being held in Oakland on April 11, 2011 and sponsored by the Statewide Fire Safe Council and the Grants Clearing House. This is the same workshop that Greg Holquist and Bill Robertson attended last year in Marin County.

Events:

Golf Tournament: Greg Holquist said things are moving forward with our third annual Golf Tournament at Eagle Vines on May 4th. Beth Dewyer said she got some donations. She has spoken to Harlan and Far Niente. Greg said we have a corporate sponsorship for \$6,200 from PG&E and \$1,200 from State Farm Insurance. Jock Eggers said he will work on getting Girl Scouts of America Sponsorship. Greg also said we will have our own Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council display with a banner that would include our logo and new website address. Bill Robertson emphasized that we really need to get more participation from our community. We need to advertise it, send out invites, and put it on our signboards.

Community Meeting: Gary Green suggested that we hold a community meeting before fire season sometime around the end of May or the first week of June. Part of this meeting could be for Public Education. He proposed a pancake breakfast at the fire station. Bill Robertson stated that parking would be an issue.

Old Business:

New Fire Prevention Signs: Gary Green shared the cost estimate to have new signs made and or refurbished. Jock Eggers mentioned our web address needs to be on the signs. Gary Green mentioned putting a sign at the main Dry Creek - Lokoya Fire Station. Beth Dewyer suggested putting the logos across the top of the sign. There was a proposal to purchase six signs. Greg Holquist made a motion to purchase three new and refurbish three existing. The motion was seconded by Wayne Cain. It was also noted that posts and concrete will need to be purchased. The motion was passed to spend up to \$4,000 for the signs. Gary Green will take care of the Dry Creek-Lokoya VFD, Napa County Fire, and Calfire logos, Greg Holquist will take care of the PG&E logos. Bill Robertson will contact Roger Archey and Stephen Gort about the Napa Firewise Foundation logos. Gary Green also mentioned that these signs could be used to advertise our meetings.

The Cove Project: Greg Holquist has scheduled three weeks of inmate labor from Calfire's Delta Camp. They will start the next phase of the fuel reduction work and will dispose of the cutting by chipping or by burn piles. It is hoped to get this next phase completed prior to May since that is when the Girl Scouts will have their Jamboree. Jock Eggers stated that our fuel reduction project at The Cove Campground has generated more interest from The Girl Scouts of America executive staff. Gary Green asked Jock if he could be informed when the camp is in use, Jock said he would. Greg Holquist will be meeting with Tony Leighton from Enchanted Hills tomorrow as well to discuss some future project prospects.

New Business:

Newsletter Proposal: Gary Green spoke about having a joint newsletter with the Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Dept. like we had before. He and Bill Robertson shared samples of past newsletters that were done. There was a discussion of cost and how much would each group would contribute. Bill Robertson suggested a fifty fifty split between postage and materials. Gary Margadant mentioned that we could put flier boxes up at each of the signs to put the newsletters in just like what the real estate agents do. Bill Robertson, Jock Eggers and Beth Dewyer will work together in developing articles for the Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council to be included in a bi-annual newsletter.

Other business:

Fire Safe Sonoma Workshop: Greg Holquist and Gary Margadant attended the workshop that was held last weekend. They brought back a positive report on the subjects covered. Gary Margadant said that they are doing things differently compared to us. There was discussion to bring the guest speakers at that seminar over for one of our community events.

Residence Fire Risk Evaluations: Beth Dewyer asked if anybody knew how the property evaluations turned out that Don Gasser did. She would like to know her results.

Non-Profit Volunteer Organization Workshop: Gary Margadant attended a workshop in Santa Rosa that focused on non-profit organizations and their board members. This workshop is sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County and they are a great resource. He encouraged everyone to attend these workshops to better our knowledge of running a non-profit organization.

April 5 Wildfire Workshop: Bill Robertson made an announcement that the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation and the Napa County Farm Bureau are hosting a workshop on Tuesday April 5, 2011 from 9:00 - 11:30 am at the UC Extension conference room located at 1710 Soscol Ave. in Napa. Pre-registration is required.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 noon

Next Meeting: Saturday April 16, 2011 at 9:00am
Dry Creek-Lokoya Fire Station 5900 Dry Creek Rd. Napa