



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, February 22, 2014

LOCATION: Joanne Sutro and Wayne Cain's house, 4143 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Kelly Wallace, Gary Green, Evangeline James, Ken Van Oeveren, Joanne Sutro, Wayne Cain, Bill Robertson, Carole Meredith

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: January 25 minutes were approved

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Kelly Wallace announced the California Wildfire Coordinating Group 2014 Inter-Agency Training to be held April 29 and 30 at McLellan Wildfire Training Center in McLellan, CA. He also reported that Roger Archey will soon be retiring and that he would send a card from the MVFSC.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary Green reported that our current bank balance is \$28,822.73. Two checks were written to Dry Creek Digital to cover work on the MVFSC website.

Gary also discussed the addition of Item 999 Suspense to our budget. This line item will be used to cover amounts that have not yet been allocated to a specific item, such as Intuit income for firewood or signs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Grants:

- a. California Fire Safe Council Grants Clearinghouse:** Kelly Wallace reported that Liron Galliano has not yet confirmed that our grant is a go. On April 9, there will be a mandatory workshop for grant recipients in Rio Linda from 10 am to 3 pm. It was suggested that Stephen Gort could represent us since the NCFE is our fiscal sponsor for this grant.
- b. Natural Resources Conservation Service:** Kelly Wallace has met with Kelly Gin. They will proceed with the application process.

2. Events:

- a. **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, May 3:** Larry Russell does not want to hold the Spring DCLVFD Pancake Breakfast on that day. So the MVFSC has the opportunity to organize something. We might collaborate with the other Napa FSC's but none of them has a geographically central location. It was decided that we would organize a local MVFSC event.

The theme would be "Are you ready for the wildfire season?" which is particularly appropriate given the drought conditions this year. We will invite Tim Hoyt to the event, since he has the enforcement power with regard to the obligations of property owners to maintain defensible space. Gary Green offered to issue the invitation. Gary also volunteered to ask Mike Wilson to support our efforts by facilitating the use of the new SRA fee hires to conduct inspections in our neighborhood.

One goal of our event will be to help residents and property owners to get assessments of their property. We can provide the names of contractors who do vegetation removal. We can discuss the importance of vegetation clearance around houses and how it is essential that emergency responders be able to find and access the property, thus the importance of vegetation clearance along driveways and highly visible address signs.

We agreed to hold the event from 9 to 10:30 am but we need to identify a location. Parking is difficult at the firehouse. Enchanted Hills is already busy that day. Evangeline James and Bill Robertson agreed to work on finding a location for the event.

Carole Meredith agreed to send a Save the Date notice to the email list and to NextDoor, with details to follow. Gary Green will submit a calendar item to the Napa Valley Register. Kelly Wallace will tell Stephen Gort and Roger Archey. We should let the other Napa Fire Safe Councils know what we are planning.

3. Project Updates:

- a. **Green reflective address signs:** Gary Green reported that we have received orders for 10 signs so far in 2014 and that our 2014 income to date is \$164.80. We have sold 173 signs in total since we began the program.
- b. **Firewood Sales:** We have 2/3 of a cord of split wood left and Wayne Cain and Joanne Sutro will buy it. We have a lot of unsplit wood and will continue to generate more, so we need a better way to deal with it. We do not have the labor to split it ourselves. Should we consider selling it to a commercial firewood supplier?
- c. **Old Ridge Road:** Gary Green reported that he met with Mike Wilson and Amy Head on 2/6 and learned that we have Delta Crew for 6 weeks – from April 7 to May 16. The crews may be shorthanded so we may not get the full complement. They will begin work near Dan Galvin's house. Gary Green will meet with Carol Isaacs to show her the project and get permission from her to work on Peggy Pieromarchi's property.

The \$15,000 we may or may not get from NCFE is for the south end of the project, but we do not yet have it so we won't work there. We'll work on the northern end with the California Fire Safe Council money. If we finish the north end, then we'll work on the south end.

Gary Green reported that he has arranged for a chipper and a portable toilet. Napa Equipment Rental will take the chipper all the way up to the work area. M&M will service the portable toilet at its location up on the hill.

If we don't get environmental approval, we may have to cancel. We have the CEQA exemption from Cal Fire but we are waiting to hear about Federal approval. Bill Robertson said that we will be required to provide before and after photos, so someone will have to take responsibility for that.

Carole Meredith will obtain signed permission forms from Troy Tyner and Aaron Pott. Gary Green will send her the blank forms.

4. **Community Wildfire Protection Plan update:** Evangeline James reported that no further progress has been made on the update to our CWPP. Bill Robertson said he wants to show our proposed projects to Mike Wilson, Steven Hawks and Barry Bierman to make sure they are consistent with statewide plans. We may choose to move in the direction of roadside clearing since that is the state emphasis now. Cal Fire has been less interested in maintaining the old fire roads because in the event of a fire, they just bring in a bulldozer and make their own road

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Firewise Communities application:** Our survey information originally generated by Don Gasser is too old. We may hire Carol Rice to conduct additional surveys.
2. **Community Projects:** Joanne Sutro is working on developing a request.
3. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** This is to be a 1 to 3 page narrative and was due at the end of January. Kelly Wallace will do it.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Records custodian:** Evangeline volunteered to be the MVFSC records custodian and maintain an electronic archive of important MVFSC documents beginning with 2014. Although the meeting minutes are on the MVFSC website, we need redundancy. Carole Meredith will send the files from the last couple of years to Evangeline. We also need to retain other documents, such as the Hold Harmless documents signed by MVFSC members and the permission forms from property owners along the Old Ridge Road.
2. **Classes and workshops:** Forest Engineering Inc. will offer several workshop in Cameron Park on topics of interest to us: Basic Road Design, March 11-14, Fuel Reduction on Steep Slopes, March 17-18, and Mechanized Harvesting, March 19-20.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

ADJOURNMENT: 11:30 am

Next Meeting: Saturday March 22 at 9:00
DCLVFD Firehouse
5900 Dry Creek Road

TO DO LIST:

Gary Green:

1. Invite Tim Hoyt to participate in our May 3 event.
2. Ask Mike Wilson to facilitate getting the new SRA fee hires to conduct property inspections in our neighborhood.
3. Submit a calendar item for our May 3 event to the Napa Valley Register.
4. Send blank ORR permission forms to Carole Meredith.

Kelly Wallace:

1. Tell Stephen Gort and Roger Archey about our May 3 event
2. Prepare the report for the Napa Valley Community Foundation
3. Send Hold Harmless document to Ken Van Oeveren, Greg Holquist, Bill Robertson, Carole Meredith, Gary Green and Steve Leveque.

Evangeline James:

1. Work with Bill Robertson to find a location for our May 3 event.

Bill Robertson:

1. Work with Evangeline James to find a location for our May 3 event.

Carole Meredith:

1. Send a Save The Date announcement to the email list and to NextDoor about the May 3 event.
2. Obtain signed permission forms for the Old Ridge Road Project from Troy Tyner and Aaron Pott.