Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2014

Members Present:

Heather Campbell (Chair), Jeanne Harper (Vice Chair), Jay Chopp (Secretary), Maureen Julian (Treasurer), Dennis Cullen (CWPP Officer), Craig Jones (Parliamentarian).

Attendance:

About 60 residents attended the meeting.

1. **Meeting Call to Order:**

   Meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

2. **Summer Events Highlights:**

   Chairperson Heather Campbell reviewed fire and safety related events from the Summer including

   a. a bulldozer line that was cut near Forebay Reservoir;
   b. information from the fire projection map in the Forebay area; and
   c. information from the fire projection map near the King of the Mountain Road/Randolph Canyon area based upon weather conditions similar to those from Fred's Fire many years ago.

   CWPP Officer Dennis Cullen reminded the Council and residents that we must remain vigilant and work on defensible space, evacuation plans, and education about fires for our residents and guests. The Weed Fire burned just 350 acres, but that amount included about 110 structures lost, including the local mill. Under the right weather conditions, Pollock Pines still has significant fire danger.

3. **Approval of Agenda**:

   It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion passed.

4. **Consent Agenda**:

   It was moved and seconded that minutes from the August 20, 2014, meeting be approved. Motion passed.

5. **Public Comment**:

   Current information was provided on the King Fire. At the time of the meeting, the fire is at 29-30,000 acres and no structures have been lost. Information of note to all residents: if power lines go down, reverse 9-1-1 capabilties also go down. And, residents should always use their best judgment about evacuating and err on the side of caution—don't wait for someone from the government to come and save you.

6. **Guest Speaker**: Jeff Mussell, Vegetation Program Manager / PG&E Sierra Division http://www.pge.com/trees

   Guest speaker Jeff Mussell discussed tree growth encroaching on power lines. Traditionally, residents tend to want to keep greenbelts and privacy afforded by tree growth around their homes. Unfortunately, such growth poses a danger to power lines, fire fighters, and evacuating residents. Jeff encouraged residents to allow PG&E contractors to

cut rather than top or save trees near power lines. Topping is unhealthy for trees; it causes them stress and does not allow them to grow to their natural height.

Did you know? 1. PG&E may fell trees that appear far from lines if the tree is deemed to be a danger within striking distance of a power line. 2. PG&E is responsible for high voltage lines only, NOT secondary lines that run from a power pole to a home. 3. Jeff's office expects to evaluate and cut about 65,000 trees just in El Dorado County to protect power lines this year.

Residents can call (800) PGE-5000 to have trees and power lines evaluated.His office can assist fire safe councils with matching funds for fuel reduction projects.

7. **Neighborhood roll call**:

This month: Home Insurance updating. What have you done or learned since the August meeting?

a. Evacuation Preparation:

Go Bag—a large percentage of people have this prepared;

Pet Care—a handful of people had made arrangements to have a pet picked up by a friend or neighbor in case of evacuation;

Photographs—about half of those in attendance had taken photos or possessions. Note: Be sure to check with your insurance provider; some providers will store your photo evidence on their computer system for future use.

Insurance update progress—about 6-10 people had experienced having their fire coverage cancelled. Some companies may only use Google Earth images. DON'T just accept a cancellation—ask questions, challenge a cancellation, and find out what you can do to mitigate circumstances and address concerns so coverage will not be cancelled.

ii. Defensible Space: Chipper sign-ups—this is a free service offered through EDCFSC. Check out the EDCFSC web site for more info about signing up and requirements for prepping your property.

iii. Education: Inspections: Goal is for PPCFSC to get people trained by CalFire to evaluate people's homes and property and to recommend mitigation strategies. This would go a long way toward helping residents make communities more fire-wise and prepared.

8. **Business items**:

a. Logo adoption: It was moved and seconded that the logo be approved with one minor revision recommended by Heather. Motion passed.

b. Gmail up and available at ppcfiresafecouncil@gmail.com . Dierctions were gien to Board members so that all members could add new members to the gmail email address book.

c. Distribution of the agenda: dennis agreed to get agendas out to Camino and Cedar Grove areas.

d. Discussion on how to start organizing the community brainstorm proposals: This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

10. **Good of the Order:**

a. Barbara Rebiskie, Fire Information Officer, spoke.

i. impressed with the number in attendance at the meeting.

ii. currently 3300 personnel on the King Fire.

iii. Evacuation Preparation? Can you get out in 5 minutes?

iv. You're only as safe as your neighbor.

v. Write your county supervisor about passing a weed abatement and defensible space ordinance.

b. Heather has requested brochures from California Insurance authority. Brochures are a good resource for recording property and belongings.

c. Craig suggested holding some kind of "thank you" event for firefighters who worked the King Fire.

d. The next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 7:00 pm.

e. Advice to all residents:

i. Stay Vigilant.

ii. Talk to your neighbors about fire safety.

iii. Recognize who is going to need help to evacuate.

iv. If you see a problem property, send the address to the gmail account so that PPCFSC can try to contact and approach the owners.

f. No meetings scheduled for November or December.

11. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.