1. Call to Order: Chairman Pat Dwyer called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Board members present were Pat Dwyer, Rod Repschlaeger, John Erickson and Marc Regelbrugge. Dwyer thanked all in attendance, and requested that everyone remember to sign in. Dwyer also reminded all interested persons to sign up to serve as Meeting Host to take charge of setting up the coffee & treats table for our next (and following) meetings.

2. Special Guest Speaker: Vice-Chairman Repschlaeger introduced Cal Fire Battalion Chief Brian Mackwood. Chief Mackwood is a 19-year Cal Fire veteran who commands the Amador-El Dorado Unit’s (AEU) Battalion 1, with stations in El Dorado (at the “Y”) and Camino, and with responsibility for the Highway 50 corridor and adjacent areas. Dwyer asked the assembled public to introduce themselves and say a few words about their own work to prepare for and help prevent wildfires. The ensuing discussion revealed a deep community commitment to maintenance of defensible space and to disaster preparedness. Mackwood encouraged residents to keep up their level of effort, and observed that community preparedness is a great asset to emergency responders faced with a rapidly evolving threat – allowing effective and extensive structure protection, orderly evacuation and wider options for attack.

Following introductions, Mackwood played a short video describing Cal Fire’s mission, history, capabilities and scope of operations. Founded in 1885, Cal Fire has truly become not only California’s Fire Department, but also a key State resource for managing and mitigating emergencies of all kinds. As an example, Cal Fire played a pivotal role in managing the emergency evacuation of some 180,000 people from the Feather River flood plain in response to spillway damage at the Oroville Dam. Cal Fire fields some 350,000 calls per year (with only about 2% of those related to wildfires). Cal Fire also provides equipment and staff under contracts to municipal agencies, with over 140 so-called “Schedule A” contracts to provide fire and emergency services to communities throughout the State.

Locally, Mackwood stressed the deep integration and coordination between Cal Fire and many community Fire Districts. The AEU Command Center fields roughly 35,000 emergency calls per year (2nd or 3rd in the state on an
annual basis). The Command Center dispatches resources on a “closest available” basis, meaning that resources from neighboring communities in El Dorado, Sacramento or Amador counties respond alike to provide the greatest possible coverage over the area. This level of coordination requires close co-training among the different agencies involved, which Cal Fire orchestrates along with the constituent fire protection districts (e.g. Diamond Springs, El Dorado County, etc.). As a result of this longstanding, routine collaboration, Cal Fire and local fire districts are immediately able to join in unified command of any incident demanding their attention. Mackwood stressed that Cal Fire AEU has an excellent working relationship with the Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District, and others, and mentioned DSEDFPD Chiefs Ransdell and Earle as indispensable partners in the shared effort.

In the ensuing Q&A, Mackwood noted that Cal Fire AEU will be conducting LE-100 Defensible Space inspections this spring in Logtown. These are intended to reinforce homeowner involvement in clearing and maintaining the required 100’ of defensible space around buildings or structures. He also mentioned the importance of firebreaks for enabling containment lines, and encouraged Logtown to continue its programs to complete and maintain firebreaks and reduced fuels zones around the community.

Following the Chief’s remarks, Repschlaeger presented Brian with a Logtown Fire Safe cap as a token of our thanks for his time taken and effort made to inform the Fire Safe Council of Cal Fire’s extensive work on our behalf.

3. Chairman’s Report/New Business: Dwyer and Erickson noted that Logtown hats and T-shirts are in stock and for sale. Contact John Erickson to purchase.

Dwyer also discussed possibilities for Logtown signage and monuments at entrances to the community, and mentioned several initiatives to look into these enhancements. Erickson discussed designs for Logtown coffee mugs.

Dwyer announced that Cal Fire will be holding Defensible Space Evaluation Training for interested individuals on March 28th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Forest Service office in Placerville.

4. Old Business: Regelbrugge and Dwyer described progress on the Logtown East Side Fuel Break (LT-10). Requests for Right of Entry to the project area have been sent out and roughly 70% of the permission notices have been returned. Thank You!! The Project Manager is under contract, and environmental and archaeological surveys are in process. Work could begin as early as the late spring if all entry permissions and environmental reviews are completed within the next 6-8 weeks.
It is very important that owners of properties on the east side of Monitor Rd., Galena Dr., Dolomite Dr., and Sam Hill Mine Ct. grant permission for the Fire Safe Council to work on their property. If you are, or know, an owner of an affected property, please promote return of signed Right of Entry permissions as soon as practical. Questions can be directed to Marc Regelbrugge, Logtown’s Project Coordinator, at (415)640-3068 or marc@regelbrugge.org.

The LT-10 project is funded under matching, $100,000 grants from Cal Fire SRA and U.S. Forest Service funds.

5. Treasurer’s Report: Erickson reported the Fire Safe Council’s bank balance is $8,570.06, and has $40.00 in cash from treats-table contributions and hat/shirt sales. Total assets are $8,610.06.

6. County Fire Safe Council Update: Dwyer noted that the County-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 14th. The CWPP defines projects and priorities for wildfire prevention and protection throughout the County. In all, projects valued at a total of more than $18M have been identified on the County’s Western Slope. Logtown’s project plan includes LT-10, maintenance of LT-1 through LT-5 project areas, fuel reduction along Union Mine Rd. and Maric Rd., and fuel reduction in the Hwy. 49 corridor.

Dwyer also announced that the Chipper Program has run out of funds and will be terminated within the next few weeks. Proposals to extend the program beyond this spring were not selected for funding. The County Fire Safe Council is exploring other avenues, possibly through PG&E.

7. Neighborhood Coordinator Reports: Repschaeger announced that the annual Community Cleanup will be held in lieu of our regular meeting on April 8th in the parking lot in front of Bobby’s Market. Snowline Hospice will be there to collect donations and E-waste, and El Dorado Disposal will be providing dumpsters for bagged household trash (please no batteries, tires, hazardous materials or construction debris).

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11th, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. with special guest District 2 County Supervisor Shiva Frentzen. Please join us.
Logtown Fire Safe Council
On-Line Resources

http://www.edcfiresafe.org
El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

http://www.edcfiresafe.org/about-the-council/satellite-councils/logtown-fire-safe-council
Logtown Fire Safe Council

http://www.edcfiresafe.org/programs-grants-2/chipper-program
Chipper Program (FREE!)

http://ready.edso.org
Sheriff’s Office Emergency Notification System
Sign-up for “Code RED” (replaced reverse-911)

https://wildfiresnearme.wfmrda.com
Web-based “beta” application providing email and text-message information about wildfires near users’ locations of interest.

http://www.friendsofedcseniors.org/
Friends of Seniors, a private, non-profit advocacy organization supporting wellness, life enrichment, dignity and independence of El Dorado County Seniors and their caregivers through advocacy and financial assistance.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Southwest County Resident Sheriff’s Deputy Steve Wunschel (530)957-3581

EDSO Dispatch (No emergencies. FOR EMERGENCIES, DIAL 911) (530)621-6600

Logtown Fire Safe Council LT-10 Project Coordinator Marc Regelbrugge (415)640-3068