Meeting Notes
Logtown Fire Safe Council
March 9, 2019

1. Call to Order: Chairman Pat Dwyer called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m. Board members present were Pat Dwyer, Rod Repschlaeger, John Erickson, Chris Olson and Marc Regelbrugge. Dwyer began the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. He reminded the assembled public to sign-in, to avail themselves of coffee and treats, and to see John Erickson to purchase Logtown hats, T-shirts and coffee mugs.

Dwyer also announced that Logtown has received formal recognition as a decade-long standing Firewise Community. As a result, we will be receiving two, new, metal signs testifying to that recognition.

2. Vice Chairman’s Report: Vice Chairman Rod Repschlaeger indicated he has arranged Guest Speakers for the Fire Safe Council meetings in April and May. June 8th will be our Community Cleanup and Firewise Day in the parking lot at Bobby’s Market.

3. Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer John Erickson reported expenditures of $646.36 for wall brackets and a 65” flat panel television for meeting presentations at Station 44. Along with $6.50 in cash, the Council’s total assets amount to $8,453.48.

4. Old Business: Dwyer announced Council activities for National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on May 4th. The Council will be working Logtown’s Community Risk Assessment to define at-risk areas and risk factors – part of the Citizens’ input into Logtown’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Your inputs and suggestions regarding at-risk areas and other causes of wildfire risk in our Community are solicited. Please contact Pat Dwyer.

Dwyer also noted that Cal Fire’s CCI Fire Protection grants are due to be awarded soon. Logtown’s LT-10 project to construct a shaded fuel break on the eastern slope of Monitor Ridge is under consideration for one of these grants, and we should know by the end of April whether or not LT-10 will be funded under this program.

5. New Business: John Erickson has looked into stickers for home windows and doors to alert emergency personnel as to certain special requirements or precautions prior to entering a building. John is seeking your thoughts and preferences regarding several candidate designs that could be procured by the Fire Safe Council for sale/distribution in the Community. Please review these items at the following websites:
Local resident Trudy Theiss and Treasurer John Erickson briefly discussed new designs and product options for Logtown hats and T-shirts. Some prototype hats were presented for public comment, and a draft T-shirt design featuring the Logtown Oak and a schematic map of Logtown’s location between Mud Springs and Pokerville was circulated. Please give your comments on these items to Trudy (she’s usually passing around the attendance sheet at Logtown FSC meetings).

Pat Dwyer also reminded the assembly that our Spring Cleanup Day is Saturday, June 8th, in the parking lot of Bobby’s Market. As usual, facilities will be provided to remove bagged household trash (no construction debris) and Snowline Hospice will be on-site to collect donations and E-waste. We also plan to have green-waste dumpsters at Station 44 and on the GWCSD Common Area (Dolomite Dr.) for two weeks around the Cleanup Day.

Dwyer would also like to schedule a Chipper Day around the beginning of June when Logtown residents could all have their chipping done on the same day. The Chipper Program’s contractors charge for transportation, so having many jobs in one specific area is a very efficient use of Chipper Program funds. The County Fire Safe Council needs to spend the Chipper Program Grant monies, so now’s the time to get your chipper pile ready! A link to sign up for the chipper program appears on our “Resources” page at the end of these notes.

Pat also thanked Sarah Todoroff for volunteering to help expand the Fire Safe Council’s nascent presence on social media.

6. County Fire Safe Council: Dwyer reported that County-wide involvement in Fire Safe activities is up! There are now 19 active satellite Fire Safe Councils operating under the umbrella of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. This includes our own Logtown Fire Safe Council, of course, and also two new Councils in Placerville and in the Texas Hill area (near Placerville Airport).
Dwyer also commented that the South Fork of the American River (SoFAR) project is underway with lots of vegetation management work being done up Hwy 50. Finally, the Board of Supervisors is continuing their development of a weed abatement ordinance, although a date for presentation of a draft ordinance has not yet been set.

7. Guest Speaker: Rod Repschlaeger introduced Mr. Dillon Brook, Stewardship Manager for the American River Conservancy (ARC). The 30 year-old Conservancy works to preserve, protect and restore lands in the American and Cosumnes River watersheds.

Mr. Brook himself was raised in the Lotus-Coloma area, through which the American River courses. An environmental scientist, Mr. Brook described ARC’s mission, “Protecting Rivers and Land for Life.” ARC implements this mission by promoting and ensuring healthy ecosystems in the river watersheds through three major activities:

1) Conservation – Protecting habitat, sustainable agricultural practices and cultural heritage and artifacts;
2) Stewardship – Managing conserved lands and their resources; and
3) Environmental Education – Providing place-based learning in the natural environment to inspire, foster and embrace a love of nature that motivates each of us to protect our environment and our planet.

ARC began in 1989 as the American River Land Trust, focused on watershed conservation on the South Fork of the American River. Over the past 30 years, ARC has protected some 26,000 acres, including 10,000 acres recently acquired at the headwaters of the American River. During that time, ARC has restored over 1,000 acres of destroyed or damaged watershed ecosystems. ARC’s volunteers donated some 5,000 hours of service to the Conservancy’s activities in 2018.

ARC began the process of acquiring lands for preservation in the Cosumnes River watershed about ten years ago. Six years ago, ARC acquired 1,059 acres of Nielsen Ranch land along the Cosumnes River (south of Crystal Blvd. and Barite St.) and designated it as El Dorado Ranch. ARC has recently acquired a total of 2,098 acres in two acquisitions, bringing the El Dorado Ranch preserve to a total of over 3,100 acres today. ARC’s long-term plans for El Dorado Ranch include adjustment of grazing boundaries to better preserve steeper hillsides, preservation of water-storage capacity in the grounds and streams above the Cosumnes River, and development of a network of trails linking SR 49 with Latrobe Rd. along the River.

Presently, ARC offers opportunities for guided hikes on many of its lands, including El Dorado Ranch. ARC hikes cost from $0-$5 per person.
Memberships are available for as little as $35 annually. You can see the hike locations, schedules and procedures, or sign up to join ARC on their web site (http://ARConservancy.org).

Dillon also mentioned ARC’s Land Stewards program that teaches Stewardship orientation, objectives and processes to ordinary citizens interested in becoming more involved with ARC or its lands. There is an annual education session held (usually) in July, and interested parties can find out more about, or sign up for the program on ARC’s web site.

Q&A with Dillon brought to light several aspects related to the Nielsen Ranch and the El Dorado Ranch properties. For example, the 1990’s proposed Cinnabar Ranch subdivision development was to be placed on some lands now owned by ARC, until concerted community resistance precluded its establishment. Also, significant interest was voiced in constructing or improving an emergency-use roadway from southern Crystal Blvd. to SR 49 across El Dorado Ranch. Dillon indicated this was not a project that ARC would likely take on, but also indicated that ARC may be amenable to working with other agencies to place, repair or maintain roadways if such activities were in-line with ARC’s goals.

Attendees heartily thanked Dillon for his presentation and for the brochures and El Dorado Ranch maps he brought to the meeting. Repschlaege echoed those thanks with his appreciation gift – a Logtown coffee mug showing Logtown’s location along SR 49.

8. Closing Public Comment: Community resident Larry Warren mentioned that he and his wife, Kathy, had requested Diamond Fire to come out and review their defensible space preparations. He said that Fire Prevention Inspector Glenda Thornton and Deputy Chief Ken Earle came out for about an hour and gave him and his wife excellent explanations of their preparations, including both acceptable aspects and those requiring some improvement. His overall impression was that the Diamond Fire folks provided a great community service.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.
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

Logtown Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

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)

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

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