



CASCADEL FIRE WISE / BRIGADE

COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

March 17, 2018

10:00 AM

Members present: Carol Eggink, Stan Eggink, Ken Wood, Carol Pace, Susie Odry and Brian Curtis.

Meeting location changed to the home of Carol Eggink due to inclement weather. Training is postponed to April 28, 2018.

Mastication project being performed by the USFS along the East and North sides of Cascadel Woods according to Francie Blaugrund of the USFS. The Mission Fire took out most of the area to be masticated on the North side. This area will be assessed to determine if the project will still include the North side. Francie will update us periodically as to the status of the project.

The Brigade will begin the fire clearance this year with slash clearance behind Cascadel South, in the ravine below Carol Pace and Pat Coleman's home located above the Water Co. lot off Cascadel Drive and in the CSA areas butting up to the homes surrounding the pond. These areas are still loaded down with logs, so when the grasses get high we will remove that growth to reduce the fuels surrounding the downed logs. Some areas have smaller logs which will be chipped and or burned by the brigade. Kathy Rhodes has asked about clearance behind her property as well. Carol Eggink will get in touch with her and view the area and the issues she is concerned with. Carol Eggink will locate the current owner of the old YMCA Lot

The Brigade will have the annual chipper drive throughout the subdivision where residents have piled their slash next to the road to assist them in the clearance of fuels on their property.

Road 233 roadside fuel clearance will be scheduled as the need presents itself with the growth of the grasses. The Heights will be included in this event as in the past. The hope is to get beyond the horseshoe curve this year since the Mission Fire burnt the majority of fuels near the archway.

Stan Eggink informed the group of the Mt. Bullion crews coming back into the subdivision and asked for some direction from the group for the best use of their time. It was decided that Stan will go through the lists of residents who have given permission for entering their property to reduce fuels to find those who have been completed from the ones who still need assistance. The new list will be given to Brian and the properties will be inspected and reauthorization will be requested from the property owner. This has a two week time limit for completion on the permissions so the Mt. Bullion crews can be put to good use as soon as possible.

The Brigade will begin burning slash piles created over the past year due to the felling of so many trees by the Grants from 2017. This project will begin this month as burning is permitted by Cal Fire.

Ken Wood supplied the Fire box on Loma Linda with a Pulaski tool he recovered from the Water Co. shed. Simon Elman will be donating a spade to complete this same box. The new break-away locks have replaced the old locks on all the fire boxes. Old keys and locks have been collected and given to the Ken Wood as the Water Co. employee. New keys have been dispersed to all Brigade members.

Simon Elman will inventory the spent washers for nozzles and connectors. This list will be given to Ken Wood for purchase of the replacements. This is to be completed before the training meeting in April.



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Simon Elman is to replace the gasoline in the can for the water pump and attach a tag with the date. This is to be done at least twice a year according to Brian Curtis.

The Shelter-in-Place area across from the clubhouse will be mowed and grasses raked up as per instruction from Cal Fire Captain. It was suggested we ask Forrest Negrete to rake the grasses into a pile for removal to an area to be burned or dumped. (*Note: There is a new guy at the County, Mohammed Alqutami of the Public Works Department, who tells me they will be mowing the meadows this year, but that felling of hazard trees will take precedence over maintenance. I told him I would let him know when the grasses were becoming a threat to the community so they could come up and mow. We shall see how that works out.*)

Carol Eggink reminded everyone to keep a log of all personal fuels reduction performed in case we are fortunate enough to land a big grant this year which might require in-kind match.

Simon Elman asked that we spread the word regarding the North Fork Volunteer Fire Department's BBQ. It will be held April 28, 2018 from 11:00am – 2:00pm.

The Annual Firewise Day BBQ and Pot Luck event will take place May 19, 2018 from 10AM- Noon. Speakers requested are from Cal Fire, USFS, PG&E, COPS and Madera County Sheriff's Department. Carol Eggink asked that Cal Fire and COPS reflect back to the Mission Fire and speak to what we did well and what could use improvement. Brian Curtis will be representing the Fire Brigade and speak in regard to the issues which occurred during the Mission Fire in our Shelter-in Place.

Carol Eggink has asked for a Fire extinguisher demonstration from Cal Fire. Simon Elman will check on this with Jamie Williams.

We are raffling off 20 man hours at the BBQ. Cost for tickets is \$1 for 1 ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets. Brian Curtis will be the contact for ticket sales.

Ken Wood will purchase the meat for the BBQ and do the cooking. Brian will bring the BBQ.

Justine Reynolds of the Resource Conservation District brought us 500 seedlings for reforestation in the Woods. We have 400 Ponderosa Pines and 100 Sugar Pines. They are currently in the clubhouse refrigerator. Carol Eggink will send out a mass email to the residents for interest. The trees need to be planted within a few weeks, even if it is in a temporary pot for survival.

The next meeting of the Firewise committee and Brigade will be April 28th. This will be a training meeting. All members are to bring:

1. Go Bags, for inspection of correct supplies
2. Keys to Fire Boxes
3. Radios/walkie talkies - Channel 7
4. We will be reviewing the use of each tool
5. We will be exercising the water pump
6. Connecting the hoses to the hydrant and charging them
7. The box will be reviewed to make sure all items necessary to charge a hose are present

Carol asked that we all keep an eye out for some new young folks to join the Brigade

Minutes by Carol Eggink