

CHINOOK PASS CABIN OWNER ASSOCIATION

BIANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 22, 2019

Location : Nile Community Church, Nile, Washington

Time: 12:05 PM, Saturday

12:05 pm :

Ralph Berthon, Association President brought meeting to order and introduced himself, Board and speakers. (absent were Kelley Lawrence and Ross Dunn).

12:07 pm :

Lee Ellis, Forest Service liaison to cabin owners spoke.

- a) F/S working on liaison improvements to communication.
- b) F/S currently understaffed but trying to build good relationships with cabin owners.
- c) Defined what "Special Uses" means.. "long term use or occupancy of the national forest system".
- d) Currently there are 753 Special Use permits in the area.
- e) F/S may have several interns or volunteers to help out with projects this summer.
- f) Current permits expire in 2028. Permits are subject to review in 2018 and 2028.
- g) Reported that in 2024, CUFFA fees should get back into the "black", more staff may be hired.
- h) F/S open to ideas for reducing backlog of road maintenance, fire reduction and tree maintenance.
- i) Lee, in response to a question, explained that the F/S has projects scheduled out to 2026. It may be possible for cabin owners to, with F/S approval, grade some roads at the cabin owners expense.
- j) In response to a hazard tree question, it was reported that requests are passed off to Kevin Hill. Please send proper documentation to F/S and depending on the extreme severity of hazard, cabin owner can take tree down, including pictures and do a "post mortem" on tree. Previous to these actions, the F/S must be notified of issue.
- k) Lee reported that Pacific Power is allowed to cut trees within their jurisdiction and often leaves brush and branches behind. F/S would allow cabin owners to cleanup at their own labor and material expense.
- l) Boulder Cave currently open. Bat study continuing.
- m) By winter, there will be a full time police officer for Naches.
- n) US Forest Service LE officer has left and a replacement is coming. Justin Swale is Deputy Sherriff on duty.
- m) F/S fire engine "ready to roll" for summer fire season.
- n) Bill Zimmer, F/S program leader, left area. Needs new leadership.
- o) Reported that some cabin owners have banded together to do cultural and archeological assessments.

- p) There will be a 3000 AC +- prescribed burn at Dry Creek this summer. Area may get smoke from that and misc slash burns.
- q) Email Lee with cabin owner fuel reduction operating plans that establish a 50' radius fire protection zones in each cabin tract.
- r) Firewise; see Nicole at Yakima County Fire Marshal's office.

12:57 pm :

Kim Stiles, NFH Director spoke

- a) Attended NFHA national convention in May, 2019 in San Diego.
- b) Currently Use Permits are being reviewed.
- c) Next national convention will be in the 3rd week of April 2020, at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver WA.
- d) Discussed permit language.
- e) Cabin insurance options.
- f) Discussed creating a "Cabin Trust", which involves a 1 page form with F/S and a transfer fee of \$1267.
- g) Discussed fire evacuation levels 1-2-3.
- h) Reported that the F/S is widely adapting the FireWise Program.
- i) Discussed how fire travels and the importance of keeping roof and chimneys clean.
- j) Reported on California fires and the rebuilding of cabins on a case by case basis with the F/S and surrounding governmental agencies. After a fire, the F/S may allow you rebuild "where is/as is", or may deny a rebuild or get a "lot in lieu of ".

1:15 pm +- :

Ethan Lockwood, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust spoke

- a) Reported on environmental trusts that have been established starting in the 1980's and 1990's.
- b) They are forming a new group and expanding to the eastside..."East Cascade Recreational Partnership" which helps to manage all the recreational vs environmental concerns.
- c) Ethan asked the cabin owners to report to them about what is currently happening in their areas and to help gather data about forest, recreational and environmental health.
- d) Ethan provided surveys and links to cabin specific and greater area surveys that can be found on their website.

1:26 pm :

Steve Nevens, Local fire Dept Chief

- a) His fire district goes from MP 94 – MP 115
- b) EMS covers both Hwy 410 and Hwy 12, from two fire districts.
- c) Reported that some cabin tracts have Fire District coverage
- d) Some tracts, upon District approval, can sign up for coverage. Cost is \$1/per \$1000 assessment per year.
- e) Fire District would need keyed access and clear paths to cabins.
- f) Reported that there are 3 fire stations, all unmanned and all volunteer in the district.

- g) Fire Dept has their own keyed gate locks at approved tracts.
- h) 911 phones are installed at the fire stations and at Whislin Jacks.
- i) District has just received a grant for Ham Radios and he will advise as to program progress.

1:40 pm :

Elections and Nominations

Certain Board positions expiring.

Nominated ; Doug Mayo, Ralph Berthon and Scott Miller

Elections will be held at the annual fall meeting of the CPCOA.

Board positions will be selected at 1st Board meeting after that meeting.

1:50 pm :

Carl Bucholtz, Activity / Tour Director and Board member

Proposed Tours :

- a) Cabin Tour, July 13th
- b) Wenas Mammoth archeological/anthological site tour , Aug 3rd
- c) Old Growth Forest Tour, possible inc Bumping Lk and "Sanctuary" site , TBD

Carl and CPCOA is always open to new tour ideas. Please contact Carl or Ralph.

2:10 pm :

Ralph Berthon, Board President

Closing remarks

2019 Goals

- a) Improve number of FireWise Program tracts
- b) Get wood chipper program back
- c) Continue to improve tract to tract communication and share information. Each tract to appoint a contact and lead person.

Misc

- a) NFH Insurance consideration. "Assurance Risk Management".
- b) Go to NFH website for access. Possible insurers inc American Reliable and Foremost insurance. State Farm may not be writing new policies.

2:20 pm :

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Scott Miller, Secretary