

CAMBRIA FIRE SAFE FOCUS GROUP

February 28, 2024

Cambria Firehouse & Zoom

General Meeting

ATTENDANCE: Taylor Hildon, Debbie Hori, Lorraine Beckmann, Cheryl McDowell, Roberta Vitols, Greg Alex, David Pierson, Dan Turner, Tony Safford, Jeff Wilson, Baxter Boyington, Manon Tree, Spencer Gordon, Kitty Connolly, Blake Fixler, Christine Landgreen, Mari Lee, Karin Argano, Keith Seydel

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS: Dave Pierson began the meeting at 3:02 PM and welcomed everyone present and on Zoom.

GRANTS UPDATE: Spencer Gordon gave an update on developments with the Rancho Marino Reserve Project. Plans include implementation soon, some in April and others in the Fall of 2024.

Dan Turner reported that there has been Broom pile burning over the last several weeks. The two Hearst projects, San Simeon Village and San Simeon Point, are scheduled for Fall of 2024. Work may be resumed on the Covell Ranch in Fall of 2024.

Dan accompanied CalPoly staff and members of the Society of American Foresters on a site visit to Covell Ranch to review pre-and post-treatment sites there.

The Fire Safe Council now has signed contracts for 106 projects throughout San Luis Obispo County.

EVACUATION ROUTE UPDATE: Dave Pierson reported that the CCSD wrote a letter to the local homeowners in the area under consideration. Keith Seydel and Mr. Decker have said yes, they would like to meet and discuss plans for an emergency evacuation route out of town. A Homeowners Association comprised of 5 homeowners has rejected the idea. Nevertheless, the committee has not given up on the creation of an additional evacuation route to be used in emergencies.

POSTER CONTEST: Roberta Vitols reported that we have launched the Poster Contest at Coast Union with Suzette Morrow's art classes. On February 7 the Cambria Fire Department presented a demonstration of the evolution of a house fire in front of the high school and in the presence of several classes. Afterwards Bob Putney visited Suzette Morrow's classes and answered questions from the students. Suzette emailed evidence of their progress to-date, including some student artwork as well as Suzette's ideas about how to plan and create a poster. Joyce Renshaw has prepared a judging panel, and posters will be on display at the Cambria Center for the Arts (CCA) for judging on April 17th. On February 22nd Chris Landgreen worked with CCA staff to put on a workshop for elementary-age children to create fire safety posters. The Cambria Fire Department brought a fire engine to the CCA building and the children got to participate. These

posters will be on display at the FSFG Town Hall on May 11 at the Vets' Hall.

Discussion ensued and Dan Turner posited that it might be possible to get the winning posters to the printer after April 17 and the 4'x8' posters could be ready for display at the Town Hall on May 11.

INSURANCE INFORMATION WEBSITE: Dave Pierson and Jeff Wilson shared a draft of a PSA regarding homeowners' insurance in the current environment of uncertainty and high costs, not to mention policy cancellations because of where we live. It is now on the CCSD website <https://www.cambriacsd.org/homeowner-s-insurance-public-service-announcement>.

The authors present certain scenarios with next steps and resources to turn to for restoring homeowners' insurance policies. One such resource is United Policyholders, www.uphelp.org/cfp. They have been invited to speak at our upcoming Town Hall on May 11. (See attachment to these minutes).

Dave reminded us that one could get a home inspection via the Cambria Fire Department. In addition, homeowners can take steps to create and maintain a defensible space around their homes.

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS DAY MAY 11, 2024: Dave Pierson has been working on speakers and presentations for this day, including Ladris (evacuation demonstration) SIM table, Genasys Protect (OES), United Policyholders, home hardening with Bob Putney, and grant activity with Spencer Gordon.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION: FSFG will participate in Earth Day '24, sponsored by Greenspace. Karin Argano announced that the theme for this year is Planet vs. Plastic. It is on April 21st, a Sunday, and will feature workshops, music, storytelling, and food.

FIREFIGHTERS' BALL: Debbie Hori is spearheading a committee to plan and put on a Firefighters' Ball in 2025. She will need volunteers to help put this on.

BIOMASS: When Dan Turner met with the Society of American Foresters, they discussed the feasibility of placing a biomass kiln in Cambria. It is available through All Power Labs in Berkeley and utilizes wood energy to produce carbon, thereby reducing the build up of wood products and reducing the power needs of Cambria CSD.

ADJOURNMENT: Dave Pierson adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM. The next meeting is on March 27, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Vitols