

CAMBRIA FIRE SAFE FOCUS GROUP

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 24, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Chris Landgreen, Steve Bitto, Karin Argano, Steve Auten, Spencer Gordon, Mike Walsh, Keith Seydel, David Pierson, Roberta Vitols, Tony Church, Cheryl McDowell, Tony Safford, Baxter Boyington, Debbie Hori, Taylor Hildon, Bill Walters, Greg Alex

WELCOME: Dave Pierson opened the meeting at 3:00 PM and welcomed everyone.

GRANTS UPDATE: The Fire Safe Council (FSC) has been awarded a 6.7 million dollar three year grant **to** work on forest health in the Cambria area, including Covell, Fiscalini, Hearst Ranch, Rancho Marino, the Fish and Wildlife Preserve, Greenspace, etc. They expect the contract in September-October and plan to start work in 2025.

The CCSD has been awarded a FEMA grant of \$288,000 to install an alert system, including signs with pre-recorded messages in both English and Spanish and sirens for emergency purposes. Signs will be located at major intersections: Ardath and Rte 1, Burton, Cambria Drive and Rte 1, San Simeon. The signs will be solar-powered with battery backup. The target audience is tourists and visitors while residents will get messages via 911. Next steps include getting bids for the work with work beginning in 2025. There is a matching funds requirement of 10% and in-kind hours can be included.

We are still awaiting word on the fuel reduction grant.

Spencer Gordon reported that work on Rancho Marino begins April 30, 2024 on Randall Road here in Cambria. They are working with the Auten Group on this project.

EARLY CHIPPING DAYS: We are still awaiting word on chipping event planning.

POSTER CONTEST 2024: The judging has been completed and we have eight winning posters from students at Coast Union. The posters are at the printers' and we expect to have them back by May 11th the Fire Preparedness Town Hall. Suzette Morrow will assist in presenting the winning posters and their creators. The students and their families have been invited to the town hall. All posters entered in the poster contest will be on display at the town hall.

EARTH DAY: Dave Pierson, Taylor Hilden, and Karin Argano reported that Earth Day '24 was a success. FSFG had a booth at the event, which included 31 booths, 5 classes, 5 movement classes and displays. 500 people were in attendance.

'24 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS DAY: Dave Pierson said that there will be set up for the Town Hall on the 10th at the Vets' Hall from 12:00-5:00 PM. Posters need to be mounted and tables and chairs set out. Volunteers need to arrive on the 11th at 8:50 AM. Doors open at 9:00 AM. Speakers start at 10:00 until 1:00 PM. We ask people to sign in

and they get a ticket for a door prize. We will close doors between the main hall and the smaller room where the vendors will be set up. We hope to keep down the noise in deference to the speakers.

Some people will stage at the Farmers' Market handing out reminders of the Town Hall, April 24, May 3 & 10.

INSURANCE INFORMATION WEBSITE: Dave Pierson recently attended a UPH webinar and learned that Commissioner Lara is working to bring back insurance companies who fled California. The new regulations will be published in Fall '24. Among other changes, Lara has reinstated the provision for companies to use their catastrophic modeling as opposed to the State of California. Dave also noted that rates will increase 20-40 % because we are in a high-risk zone for fire.

Dave reported that there are two companies doing home inspections for wild fire preparedness. They provide a home certification that has two levels: basic and premium. Featured on the inspection are such home hardening items as 5-foot clearance of vegetation around the house, rock ground cover, not mulch. and metal fencing, not wood. One can visit the IBHS.org website to see the check lists. Over time every homeowner will need a home inspection certification to get and keep homeowner insurance. Each certification is good for 3 years.

HOUSE NUMBERS: There is no new information on efforts to promote house numbers.

FIREFIGHTERS' BALL: Debbie Hori reported that she has her committee and they are working on several projects. A kickoff event is planned for May 20. They may use a private home to hold the event. Debbie has met with Chief Burkey and learned more about a wish list of needs.

OTHER: Greg Alex gave us a preview of Ladriss, showing the progression of a fire starting from various points in Cambria. All of this will be on display at the Town Hall. He has also updated the Fire Safe Council website and it includes information about Cambria. Interested persons can go to FiresafeSLO.org

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT: Dave Pierson announced that our next meeting is on May 22nd and we will meet at the Vets' Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Vitols