

**CAMBRIA FIRE SAFE FOCUS GROUP
GENERAL MEETING
VETS'HALL & ZOOM
JUNE 26, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Tom Gray, Marshall Hamilton, Brooks Bailey, Keith Seydel, Karin Argano, Mike Walsh, Dave Pierson, Greg Alex, Roberta Vitols, Debbie Hori, Barbara Forgey, Tony Church, Michael Thomas, Tony Safford, Dan Turner, Spencer Gordon, Baxter Boynton, Cheryl McDowell, Jeff Pomerantz

WELCOME: Dave Pierson opened the meeting at 3:03 PM. Everyone made introductions. Debbie Hori introduced her guest Barbara Forgi who is the point person for fundraising on the committee planning the Fireman's Ball.

FIRE CHIEF UPDATE: In the absence of the Chief this item was postponed.

GRANTS UPDATE: Spencer Gordon reported that fuel reduction has been underway on Rancho Marino Reserve for the past two weeks. Currently the crew has been pulled off to attend to fire fighting. They will return later. In about a month, Gordon will do another PSA regarding his forest management plan.

Dan Turner reported that an onsite visit to the Covell property with several entities went well. He said that the Regional Water Quality Control Board is considering new regulations on vegetation treatment basically anywhere in their jurisdiction. The Regional Water Quality Control Board has stated that the work being done on Covell property is the model for this kind of work. Margaret Sohagi has approved for fuel reduction to proceed on her property.

Eradication of French Broom continues using licensed applications. Currently crews are getting training on using chain saws as part of the San Simeon project and in 3-4 weeks work on the ocean side will begin clearing dead Monterey Pines.

FSC has approval on one grant: Forest Health work on Fiscalini, Covell, Pico Creek, and Fish & Wildlife. Work begins in the Fall of 2024.

Karin Argano reported that she is still awaiting approval to start work in Strawberry Canyon.

WEBSITE UPDATE: Greg Alex has developed a Monterey Pine Website. It is on display at SLOMPRP.org. It includes updates on projects in the Monterey Pine forest. He reported that the Fire Safe SLO website is getting 100 visitors a month.

CHIPPING DATE: There will be free chipping available to Cambria residents on July 22, 2024. People must sign up at the Fire Station and have all materials out by July 19th.

CCSD EVACUATION PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION: Matthew McEhlhenie has submitted a grant application for \$300,000 to develop an evacuation plan for Cambria. It includes a partnership with the Fire Safe Council and the Fire Safe Focus Group. They want to identify more evacuation routes, partner with FSC and FSFG to provide education and outreach.

He also reported that CERT will re-start with new teams that are more thoroughly vetted than in the past.

PINEDORADO PARADE: This year the Parade is on August 31. Roberta reported that we expect to have a fire engine as the centerpiece of our entry. Volunteers are welcome.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTIONS OFFER: Joe Torres has consented to conduct 4-5 inspections for \$125.00 each on a date to be determined. Dave Pierson will arrange the visits.

INSURANCE INFORMATION WEBSITE: Dave Pierson attended a webinar on updates. The Insurance Commissioner is awaiting new rules as are the companies themselves. There is hope of more clarity on what to do, how ratings are determined, and how a homeowner can make necessary improvements to keep their insurance.

HOUSE NUMBERS: This project is still on hold.

FIREFIGHTERS' FUNDING EVENT: The date is May 3, 2025. Debbie Hori is heading up a committee and plans will be in place by August, 2024. Soon they will announce the venue. Dave is thinking of doing a Fall Wildfire Preparedness event to complement this event.

ADJOURNMENT: There are no planned meetings for July or August. Next meeting date is September 25th. Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Vitols