



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, February 24, 2024

LOCATION: Joanne Sutro's residence, 4143 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Carole Meredith, Jeff Enos, Roger Provost, Bill Robertson, Bob Clark, Gary Green, Paul Woodward, Dan Woodard, Margaret Woodard, Joanne Sutro, Jake Songer

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: There were no minutes to approve.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

MVFSC updates:

Hogback Ridge: Work is beginning on this project. It will extend south to Highway 12 in Carneros and north to Bald Mountain. This is funded with federal money via the US Forest Service (aka the Feinstein earmark). A CalFire Wildfire Prevention Grant will pay for the extension of this project from Bald Mountain to Whitehall Lane. (A question arose as to whether Montgomery Road was to be included, since it has been mentioned previously. But it was noted that Greg Holquist has looked and doesn't think it would logically fit into the overall plan.)

California Vegetation Program: Botanical surveys and permitting are in progress.

Enchanted Hills: Funded by Cal Fire Forest Health Grant. Spring survey is underway. Additionally, we are helping Enchanted Hills in their effort to become a Resilience Hub and in the development of their Wildfire Protection Plan.

Mayacamas Fire Safe Council and Mayacamas Volunteer Fire Foundation: We are working with them to get grants from Cal Fire and PG&E.

NCCF updates:

The new Napa County Fire Administrator is Dave Shew and his deputy is J. R. Rogers. It was suggested that we invite them to a MVFSC meeting.

The Silverado Fire Safe Council is organizing a Fire Resources Fair to be held at Napa Expo on March 16.

NCCF has several job openings, including a marketing person who will work on social media, the website, and events.

PROJECT REPORTS

Vegetation Management and Fuel Reduction (Jeff Enos, Project Manager):

For the Veterans home, it is important to look at the entire grounds, not just the perimeter. The goal is for it to be safe enough that evacuation is not needed.

Napa Valley Vintners money is being used to work on spur ridges from Dry Creek Road to Oakville Ridge Road and then to Yountville via Napanook Road.

The Hogback Ridge project (federal money) is a means to connect a lot of other projects from the ridge down to Redwood Road and up through the Yates property. It will go through some vineyards, with the advantage that vineyards don't require much additional vegetation removal.

The roadside clearing work is finished but there is no funding plan in place for maintenance.

The FEMA BRIC grant has been awarded (to the county) but not yet received. This is a 3-year grant that includes a lot of county administrative work. It is advisable to delay the start of the work until the county has streamlined its procedures. NCFE will not be closely involved with the homeowner defensible space and home hardening component but will be more involved with the seven large projects that are included.

MVFSC website (Roger Provost):

Roger met with Steve Sando, Margaret Woodard, and Dan Woodard to discuss ways that the website could be used to promote more contact with the community. Some kind of sign-up mechanism was proposed, so that we can get resident contact information. A newsletter was also suggested. (We can use NCFE content as long as we include attribution.) Steve Sando proposed that the home page be reorganized to better promote property evaluations. Residents adjacent to roadside clearing work could be encouraged to allow extension further onto their property. Most residents don't recognize the distinction between MVFSC and Napa Firewise. Steve Sando made several further suggestions and offered to mock up a new home page.

It was suggested that we need a way to identify new residents, so that we can engage them and offer them property evaluations. Bob Clark volunteered to contact some local realtors about how to obtain information about property sales transactions. We could produce a welcome kit for new residents.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) (Roger Provost):

There is one ongoing project on Wall Road that is funded half by NCFE and half by MVFSC. MVFSC will pay the contractor and then be reimbursed by NCFE. Jake Songer is doing some work on a Mount Veeder Road property.

Neon contact database (Joanne Sutro): no report

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The MVFSC bank balance is \$100,364.31, of which about \$75,000 is for MVFSC and \$25,000 for Home Winemakers Classic.

The proposed 2024 budget includes a \$10,000 reserve. We do not anticipate grant income. The proposed budget for Neighbors in Need is \$30,000, which includes

revenue from Home Winemakers Classic and Community Projects. We need to add items for new signs and additional tax expense.

Home Winemakers Classic: Cindy Kerson is actively seeking new sponsors, auction items, and winemaker participation.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

Next Meeting: 9 am, April 13, 2024 at Joseph Nordlinger's house, 4297 Dry Creek Road

ADJOURNMENT: 11:15 am