

Snowden Community Council – 12.07.2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Council Members present: Roger Gadway, Tom Montag, Lloyd Olson, Jenne Patterson, Jenn Sharp, Dan Spatz, Chris Stein. Absent: Bob Conner, Chuck Kleish. There were 6 additional Snowden Community members present.

Roger called the meeting to order in the Cherry Lane Fire Station Meeting Room at 7:09 PM. The November Meeting **Minutes** were approved, as previously presented by email. With Chuck absent, there was no **Treasurer's Report**. Roger apologized for not bringing the SCC **Correspondence** received from Klickitat County Public Works Department but summarized the contents: Courtney Road WILL be open this winter as a graveled road, even though the new blacktop failed inspection. Further discussion concluded that, in spite of this, and some lingering concern for embankments stabilized with sheets of plastic, Courtney Road has now re-opened, and is better than it was.

There were no **Additions to the Agenda**.

Old Business: Website Committee: Jenne reported that she and Jenn have received training from our website consultant Aaron; and they have already started training members of the website committee how to edit and add content to the website.

Broadband Committee: Dan reported that he has been in conversation with WA State Broadband Network Director Mark Vasconi, and learned that Federal funding for improved internet access will be available in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2023. Our County Commissioners only need to request funding for a feasibility study. Charter (a.k.a. Spectrum) internet provider is considering applying for a grant to provide fiber hook-up for 600 homes, which would benefit some of Snowden. The grant money covers construction, but not on ongoing service; and requires the provider to allow open access to other providers for 2 years. Dan said there is an FCC Broadband Map online, with a process for the public to ground truth it. While it is important for Snowden to be accurately represented on this map – the method for responding to the map is still unclear.

Bea had presented the Council with her draft letter to County Commissioners earlier by email. The letter stressed the need for Commissioners to request grant funding for the broadband feasibility study; and requested the Commissioners champion Fire District #3 getting access to the fiber cable that runs right by the station. Several improvements were suggested. After revisions are made, Roger will sign the letter on behalf of the SCC, and present it to each Commissioner.

New Business. There was no new business.

Fire District #3 Report: Tom Montag announced that FD#3 Chief Wes Long would like the SCC to organize a joint meeting with Husum/BZ Council in the Spring for the purpose of explaining and implementing the DNR "Wildfire Ready Neighbors" program. The Chief is pushing to get help with home property fire preparedness surveys and urging participation in the DNR program. His message to the Community Councils will be that the ONLY way a community can thwart the threat of wildfire is to prepare properties and create entire neighborhoods that have successfully participated in the program. The end result will keep insurance rates lower and reduce the risk of policy holders getting cancelled. The Chief suggested the SCC could also invite the Trout Lake and Appleton Community Councils.

Lastly, nineteen months after they ordered it, the 600 Amp electrical panel has arrived and been installed at Station 31 in Husum.

For the Good of the Order: There was concern expressed for the high cost of improving internet service, especially for those who can't afford it. The following discussion considered caps on costs to low-income families, and the value of the proposed feasibility study which would specifically identify costs, and access equity. Roger adjourned the meeting at 8:30PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Bea Lackaff , SCC Secretary (pro tem)