Snowden Community Council – 01.04.2023 Zoom Board Meeting Minutes

Council Members present: Roger Gadway, Chuck Kleish, Tom Montag, Lloyd Olson, Jenne Patterson, Jenn Sharp, Dan Spatz. Absent: Bob Conner, Chris Stein. There were 4 additional Snowden Community members present.

With thanks to Zoom host Jenn Sharp, Roger called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. The December **Meeting Minutes** were approved, as corrected. Chuck gave the **Treasurer's Report**: We are beginning the New Year with a balance of $1,288.02, and no outstanding checks in or out. The report was approved as presented. Jenn requested to **Add** a conversation about Community resiliency **to the Agenda.** Roger will introduce it under New Business.

Old Business: Website Committee: Jenne reported that we are now updating the website directly. An announcement of tonight's last-minute change due to snow to a zoom meeting, with all zoom access information, was posted immediately on the website! The website committee members are in training to add and edit data on the website. Jenn is saving her last scheduled training with website guru Aaron until she has as many unanswered questions as possible, to get the most out of their session. Jenne issued a call to the Council and Community for any useful website content, including archival stories, documents, or photos, useful links, or recent photos. Material can be submitted to the SCC email: SnowdenCouncil@gmail.com.

Broadband Committee: Roger reported that he and Bea mailed letters to each County Commissioner regarding our request that they seek funding for a rural internet access feasibility study, and their support to connect Cherry Lane Fire Station to the adjacent fiber cable. Roger attended the December 20 BoCC meeting, and presented these issues directly to the Commissioners (including new Commissioner Lori Zoller). Dan reported he has asked for help from our State Senator Curtis King, and Representatives Gina Mosbrucker and Chris Correy, who all express their support. Bea reported that she wrote Carrie Pipinich at MCEDD expressing confusion using the FCC Broadband Access Map to provide ground truthing as requested. The deadline for feedback on the SCC map is January 13. Carrie replied with instructions via email, but also offered to come in person for a community training at the White Salmon Library. During the following discussion it was agreed that it is difficult to ground truth the FCC map online, and that it is important to do if we want adequate funding for improved broadband in our area. Setting up the training, and publicizing it in the Gorge News by their January 11 deadline, as well as on the SCC website and social media in time will be challenging. Dan offered to set up the training with Carrie, if possible.

New Business. Jenn alerted the Council that there are grants available for exploring and creating a "rural resiliency hub", and proposed we consider doing so in Snowden. Such a "hub" might include a central location (such as Cherry Lane Fire Station?) where neighbors who have lost power can come to charge their phones, get emergency information, get food or water, etc. There are also grants currently available for enhancing solar storage and setting up EV charging stations. A non-profit organization must apply for the grants. Links to these grant opportunities include:

https://rmi.org/weathering-climate-disasters-with-resilience-hubs/
https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/solar-plus-storage/

Fire District #3 Report: Fire Commissioner Tom Montag reported that Fire District #3 is finalizing the data for 2022, and doing preparation planning for 2023.

For the Good of the Order: Bea requested clarification on an inquiry in the SCC email about a 2009 newspaper article wherein half the Husum CC resigned after the County Prosecutor said the County offered them no legal protection from lawsuits. Roger explained that at that time, the Husum Community Council was highly polarized, with the concern that if one side passed anything the other would sue them; and, Husum had (has) no Zoning Plan. Since the Snowden CC does have a Zoning Plan, it is unlikely SCCouncil members could be vulnerable. He added that If there is concern over liability, an "umbrella" insurance plan can be looked into – they cost about $15 a month.

Roger adjourned the meeting at 7:59PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Bea Lackaff

SCC Secretary (pro tem)