

Greenbelt Committee Minutes

Date: Saturday Nov. 7th, 2020 ZOOM

Attendees:

Carmel Mawle

Craig Mawle

Bryon Fessler

Cheryl Poage

Paige Neiderer

Sue Chesnut

Steve Koekeritz

Jane Koekeritz

John Lippert

Stella Anderson

Rachel Ownbey

The Greenbelt Committee meeting was held at 10:00, Nov. 7th via zoom. Bryon Fessler called in to speak about mitigation with support from the board and working with the Forest Serve (FS). He sees the committee as “boots on the ground” working along with the FS walking trails with the FS and contractors. He wants to put resources behind the “talk” for this to be successful, resources being contractor support, tools.

Trail Adopters - what can/can't they do as an adopter. Need to have a plan and communication chain to help mitigate “their” trail. Cheryl thinks we have a policy to cover trail workers already in place which is designed for those volunteers wanting to mitigate on the trail. Stella will check into this.

Cheryl Poage - She has concerns about the prescribed burns that potentially get out of control. Instead of burns she would like to see other methods, mitigation as in shaded fuel breaks. Since we are a nonprofit she believes we can get money for mitigation, especially

seeing that we have had a big fire this past season, and is waiting for the funds to be released to see what we will get. It's possible being reclassified would garner more resources. She would like the board and committee to look at what GRANTS are available. John Lippert said that the fire dept should be able to go to the FS for more information and grant may be available thru them and it may be the better way to approach this. Mark Rode will be at the next meeting.

Carmel - The National Forest is blocking access for another fire escape, Bear Gulch. Cheryl stated that the access is waiting for the judge's final decision. The Trail used to be a logging road and now is between properties. Bryon is working with the FS on opening their part of the trail.

TAX CREDIT - The Greenbelt Committee's role is educating the community on greenbelt management. Paige Neiderer presented the Tax Credit for mitigation on private property. 50% tax credit on what you've spent thru 2020 to mitigate your property. Cheryl has used this, used to be 100%. This needs to be communicated to property owners. Can be used for chain saws, slash depot etc.

Resource Center - Steve K. suggested that we set up a "resource" center to educate property owners.

**Cheryl will put this on the agenda for the next board meeting to see if they will contact legislators.

Stella Anderson - talked about the need for property owners to check for hiking easements that run across their property.

Signage on trails - It was suggested that each trail be color coded. The committee thought this was unnecessary and potentially too much upkeep. Instead, the committee suggest that we keep with the yellow signs with brown/black lettering. There are new signs that need to be painted, Carmel, Paige and Sue volunteered to help paint them. Discussed Trail head signs to potentially be metal.

Trail Adopters - There is a list of trails that have been adopted. This list was compiled by the hiking group and needs to be updated. Paige will reorganize it by trail rather than by name. Steve and Jane K want to adopt the Lake Trail.

Next Meeting will be Saturday Nov. 14th 10:00 vial ZOOM.