

## **MT. HOOD FOREST HOMEOWNERS ASSN.**

### **Annual Meeting**

**June 22, 2013**

**Welches Elementary School**

**Board Members Present:** President Paula Hoiland, Treasurer Daryl Philippi, Secretary Carolyn Raz, Vonnie Condon, Michael Halligan, Ken Hoiland and Scott McCaskill.

**Absent:** Tom Reynolds and Joel Grayson.

Approximately 141 persons attended representing 72 cabins.

12:45 - President Paula Hoiland opened the meeting. The Board members were introduced.

**Treasurer's Report:** From a Financial Statement made available to those present, Treasurer Daryl Philippi made a recap of our income, savings, less expenses for a net total of \$25,442. Of the 552 cabins in the Mt. Hood track, 66% are current members. The major expenses were: \$1,067 for the Forest Watch signs and decals, \$6,000 donated to the National Forest Homeowners for legislation on the Cabin Fee Act, and \$1,089 for liability insurance.

**Permit Fee Update:** Because the Cabin Fee Act bill had to be reintroduced to the current Congress, the original Cabin Users Fee Fairness Act (CUFFA) amount will apply for the current billing by the Forest Service for this year's (2013) permit fee. The bills should be received by the end of June and will be due by August 1st. Under CUFFA, we can expect a bill between \$2,500-\$3,000. The new bill in Congress has passed the House and should be reintroduced to the Senate within the next two weeks. Paula encouraged all cabin owners to send letters to their senators urging them to pass the bill. If the new bill is passed, next year's permit fee will be less, but at this time we have no way to know when it will be due.

**Burglaries:** A cabin owner described a recent break-in at his cabin on Road 12. The door frame was destroyed and electronics were taken. The cabin did not have deadbolt locks or an alarm system. The burglary was discovered by the Mt. Hood Patrol, who contacted the owner and had boarded up the cabin until the owner could arrive.

**Outdoor Burning:** For the remainder of the season, cabin owners need to contact the Forest Service to request permission to burn

**Forest Watch:** Except for one post on Road 34, all the Forest Watch signs have been installed, thanks to fellow cabin owner, Mark Beckius, who donated all the sign posts, labor and equipment to install them. In appreciation, the Association gave Mark a big thank you and a gift certificate for dinner at Timberline Lodge. Mark's generous donation saved the Association \$2,000+. We are all grateful. Thank you, Mark.

Paula explained the Forest Watch Program includes cabin owners getting to know their neighbors, what kind of cars they drive, making note of unfamiliar vehicles, any suspicious activity, etc. Cabin owners were encouraged to engrave their tools, electronics, etc. with their driver's license number followed by the state designation, such as OR. The Association has engravers available to loan. Contact the Association by email. Also, Paula said that packets will soon be available for setting up a Forest/Neighborhood Watch program. Two Forest Watch decals were given to current dues-paying members present to place in their cabin windows.

**Water Master Report:** David Jacobs, the water master, oversees ten water districts, most of which are small. He reported that the last 400' of a new water system on Road 34 is in the process of being completed. He's working on revamping the service lines on Roads 20 and 20E. David asked people to keep an eye out for leaks, citing an example of one cabin with an on-going major leak starting the day before Thanksgiving until after New Year's.

In response to a question, David said the fire hydrants in the Lady Creek and Rhododendron systems are inadequate for putting out a house fire. The Hoodland Fire Department has seven tanker trucks to offset the hydrants. David is trying to upgrade the hydrants to accommodate a larger volume of water.

**Water Master Thank You:** In appreciation of David Jacobs' winter road reports, Paula presented him with a gift certificate to dinner at Timberline Lodge. David has done a wonderful job of keeping cabin owners apprised, via the MHFHA website, of the degree of access on each road with an A-F grading system, with the "F" designation meaning, "don't even try to drive there". Enthusiastic applause from the attendees indicated resounding gratitude.

**NFH Communications Award:** Paula presented our treasurer, Daryl Philippi, the National Forest Homeowners Communication Award for his outstanding job as webmaster for MHFHA. Congratulations, Daryl, the award is well deserved. Daryl did ask if there were any volunteers who would like to assist with the website.

### **Zig Zag Ranger District/Forest Service Update:**

**Forest Fires:** As a result of the current sequestration, 500 fewer fire fighters have been hired for the coming fire season. Seventy percent (70%) of the Forest Service budget is allocated to fire fighting.

**Recreational Residence Permit Administrator:** Fran Lanagan is on a special assignment in Parkdale. It was asked that no-one email her. All issues need to be directed to Fran's supervisor, Leanne Vuldheiz, who is covering both positions until Fran's return sometime in October.

**Requests for Exterior Modifications, Repairs, Replacements:** Due to the staff shortage, cabin owners are asked to submit requests between August 15-October 15,

2013, for any exterior work to be done in 2014. This includes repainting, re-roofing, replacing or adding a deck, windows and/or doors.

**Selling A Cabin:** If a cabin is to be put on the market, the Forest Service needs to be notified for an inspection.

**Self Inspections:** Again, due to staff shortage, annual inspections by the Forest Service of all cabins is impossible. All cabin owners are asked to get the Self Inspection form and perform their own inspections and submit to the FS. The completed inspection form is due by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Forest Service Forms:** Most of the forms needed for requests or self-inspection can be downloaded from the FS website. These forms can also be filled out on line.

**Oregon Forest Homeowners Assn Representative:** Scott LeTourneau is on the Board of OFHA. He has a cabin on Elk Lake near Bend. He introduced himself as a candidate for president of OFHA and welcomed the opportunity to meet some of the MHFHA members.

**Land Use Program Manager of Region 6:** Jim Sauser gave an overview of what's happening with the Forest Service. For instance, many FS personnel are retiring and being replaced with less experienced staff. He asked that we be patient when dealing with the new hires.

**Forest Fires Review:** Forest fires are an increasing threat. Even though our area is green and moss is everywhere, we shouldn't be complacent that it won't happen here. Once a fire starts, it can rapidly spread even though the trees are healthy and green.

Jim took questions on various topics, including how the FS could afford a new Zig Zag office when budgets are being cut left and right. He said he was ill-equipped to respond to that.

2:15 pm - Meeting adjourned.

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