

MT. HOOD FOREST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
Annual Meeting
Welches Elementary School
June 24, 2017

Board Members Present: Ray Ambling, David Gearing, Doug Hartley, Ken Hoiland, President Paula Hoiland, Secretary Carolyn Raz and guests and candidates running for board positions, Jean Schnadig and Kris Amling.

Members Absent: Joel Grayson and Treasurer Michael Halligan

Ballots were handed out at Registration - one ballot per cabin - to vote on board members. The ballots were collected.

12:30 pm, **President Paula Hoiland** called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and introduced Forest Service staff **Bill Westbrook**, Zigzag District Ranger, **Tracy Kramer**, Land Use Permit Administrator, **Greg Wanner**, Fish Biologist, **Debora Boudreau**, Realty Specialist/Special Uses, **David Jacob**, Watermaster and former board member and chair of the Nominating Committee (and chef extraordinaire), **Scott MacCaskill**. Board members were asked to introduce themselves.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of 2016: A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting. Motion unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of treasurer, **Michael Halligan**, **Paula** briefly went over the financial statement as of May 31, 2017.

Of the 550 cabins in the Mt. Hood tract, members representing 295 cabins have paid dues through May 31.

A combination of dues, donations and interest totaled \$8,850. Additionally, \$7,560 in National Forest Homeowners dues were collected, which will be forwarded to NFH.

Expenses to date totaled \$3,207

The largest expenditures were the newsletters and postage.

Total association assets, as of May 31, 2017 - \$40,722

Fran Lanagan Retirement: **Fran** has been the Mt. Hood Special Use Permit Administrator since 2006. She is retiring June 30, 2017. In appreciation, the Board nominated **Fran** to receive the first annual Jim Sauser Award for Outstanding Advocate, which was presented to her at the annual National Forest Homeowners Convention in Seattle this past April.

Cabin Homeowner's Insurance: Many cabin owners have either been denied coverage, experienced high increases or had their coverage dropped, without

explanation by their insurance companies, resulting in only 79% of cabin owners currently insured. **NFH** has been working with three insurance companies working together to offer a special group insurance program for cabin owners. **NFH** has been working diligently to get this program started and hopes to have a pilot program ready this fall. Stay tuned to **MHFHA** website as information arrives.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Appreciation: **Paula** introduced **Scott MacCaskill** and thanked him for his years of service as vice president of the **MHFHA** Board and for buying all the food supplies and cooking the burgers and hot dogs at the Annual Meeting. **Paula** presented **Scott** a gift as a token of appreciation for all his work and dedication to **MHFHA**.

Forest Service Request: The Forest Service has received numerous complaints from local business owners stating cabin owners are using their containers to dispose of their trash/garbage. It was asked of the cabin owners to refrain from this practice and to either take their trash home or to the dump in Sandy.

New NFH Board Member: **Paula** introduced **David Gearing**, a current **MHFHA** board member, as a new member of the National Forest Homeowners board. **David** expressed his appreciation for the hard work and energy of **NFH** board members and their work with the **USFS** in Washington, DC.

Road Repair and Maintenance: Since our permits state the Forest Service is not responsible for cabin roads, **Paula** explained that with the passage of the Cabin Fee Act (CFA) two years ago, **MHFHA** no longer has the expense of donating funds to help with the passage. Therefore, the Board decided to use some of those funds for road repair and maintenance.

The newly created Roads Committee requested bids from several companies to repair and maintain both the gravel and paved roads. The decision was made to grant the bid to **David Linn Trucking and Excavation** to start repairs in September up to \$15,000. **David Linn** is a local who has worked with the **USFS** often doing road repairs as well as he handles several cabin road snow plowing services. He is respected and trusted. A crew of three or four will work Monday-Friday. **Paula** will be notified in advance which road will be worked on and when, though the work will not preclude cabin access. She will then post the information on the website. Also, the Forest Service has said they will donate some approved gravel for the project. Though driveway repair is not included, cabin owners request gravel drops, at their expense, to make their own repairs. **MHFHA** will look into this further.

Paula emphasized that this project will just be repairs. The roads will not be repaved or totally regravelled. The hope is to have the project completed by November.

FOREST SERVICE STAFF POINTS

Permit Fee Retention: Until the passage of the Cabin Fee Act two years ago, the nearly \$1 million of permit fee revenue generated from the Mt. Hood tract went directly into the US Treasury, not to the Forest Service budget or to the Mt. Hood National

Forest. However, that will change in 2025 when our permit fees will go directly to the Mt. Hood National Forest, to be used for Recreation programs. The cabin program is just part of the recreation program. The Forest Service will entertain suggestions from cabin owners about what the monies should be used for, such as an additional permit administrator(s), road repair, more law enforcement, etc.

Illegal Camping: Forest Service regulations allow people to camp anywhere in the forest for 14 consecutive days. After 14 days, they must wait 30 days before camping again for up to 14 days. After that, they can't camp again in the forest for a year. Further, the camping must be for recreation, such as swimming, fishing, hiking, climbing - not as a shelter/residence. In the past few years, there has been a large number of illegal campers, often local seasonal workers of ski areas as well as homeless people. Most often, these people leave mountains of trash and human feces. **Bill Westbrook**, the Mt. Hood District Ranger, stated that a full-time person has been hired, along with a volunteer, to both educate people about leaving the forest devoid of trash, and to clean up abused areas of trash.

The Salmon River Corridor has been closed this year because of the trash and illegal camping. Often disbursed campers just move to another location, but the Forest Service is pursuing them. Also, the Forest Service has been going to local businesses and advising them that their employees cannot live in the forest.

Fire Suppression: **Bill Westbrook** asked cabin owners to clear an area around their cabin to mitigate fire danger. Small limbs, branches and debris should be raked and disposed of.

Hood to Coast Relay: The annual Hood to Coast Relay, the Saturday before Labor Day, will be diverted onto Road 39 and then onto Road 35. Owners will still be able to access their cabins, though possibly with some delay.

Solar Eclipse: With the solar eclipse that will occur on August 21, **Bill** said there will be a significant traffic impact on Hwy. 26 as campers travel over the mountain to Madras, a central point for watching the eclipse. Cabin owners were encouraged to get to their cabins prior to and stay after the eclipse to avoid the anticipated congestion.

Special Use Permit Administrator Replacement: There is currently a freeze on hiring at the Forest Service. Because of the freeze, there are ten open positions. A temporary employee has been hired for four months to fill in for retiring **Fran Lanagan**. The temp comes with nine years of Recreation Residence experience. She will start July 1.

Septic Tank Inspection: Before a cabin can be sold and the permit transferred to a new owner, the septic tank must be inspected and approved.

2018 Cabin Projects: If projects are slated for 2018, such as a new roof, window or deck replacement, repainting or staining, owners were advised to submit their request(s) to the Forest Service between August 15 and November 15, 2017, for approval for next year. They will of course accept emergency situations on an expedited course.

Target Shooting: Shooting is allowed as long as it is not near a stream, road or cabins.

Rhododendron Community Projects Organization Report (CPO): Steve Graeper, president of the Rhoddy CPO, explained the expanded boundaries of the CPO to include the cabins. Their focus is on forest, land and road issues. A particular goal is to make Rhody a safer place by slowing traffic along with the hope of enticing people to stop and eat and/or shop in Rhody. Steve asked for suggestions of what cabin owners would like to see in Rhody. The meetings are held the third Saturday of the month, with the next meeting being held July 15 and cabin owners were encouraged to attend.

Water Report: David Jacob, the water master for both Lady Creek and Rhododendron/Henry Creek Water system, reported that a new water line is being installed for Camp Creek and Road 27. Also, a new filtration system is being installed plus a 135,000 gallon storage container to be placed behind the Skyway Restaurant.

Fish Biologist Report: Greg Wanner, fish biologist, reported:

Ongoing restoration effort on Still Creek, where 1,700 logs have been placed, and 100 log jams removed;

A record increase in winter steelhead trout returns since the removal of the Marmot Dam;

A record coho salmon run on Still Creek;

Approximately 350 logs will be helicoptered in, along with 20-30 trucks carrying logs on Still Creek Road - July 12-13;

No Camp Creek restoration anticipated for the next five years.

2:20 pm - Meeting adjourned.

Sep 23 - Semi-annual highway clean up

Fall (date to be announced) - Invasive plant pull

Oct 07 - Mushroom picking clinic with an expert and field trip. **NOTE:** A permit for mushroom picking is required and is good for a year.