

Fish Camp Planning Advisory Council
FINAL Minutes
9:30 a.m., Saturday, January 21, 2023

Call to Order at 9:30 a.m.

Chair Harter

1. Roll Call

Secretary Rolfe

Members Present: Archer, Bassett, Baxter, Harter, Rolfe (telephonic), and Royse
Members Absent: Cerioni, Christian, both excused. Luther, resigned.

2. Welcome Guests

Harter

Guests introduced themselves. Hewlitt and Franklin (telephonic), Reinhart, Glendenning, Shelton, Weleski (2), Casagrande, Salsbury, Murray.

3. Resolution Due to Covid

A resolution of the Fish Camp Town Planning Advisory Council proclaiming a local emergency, ratifying the proclamation of a state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020 regarding an outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as Covid-19), and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of the Fish Camp Town Planning Advisory Council for the period from January 21, 2023 to February 20, 2023 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

Moved Baxter, seconded Basset, passed.

4. Approval of Draft Minutes

Minutes of the October 22, 2022. **Moved Basset, seconded Baxter, passed.**

5. Persons wishing to speak on a matter not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the council: Karen Glendenning discussed someone stranded: There was an issue as to the name of the road and the CHP being able to locate the vehicle. In the past, a booklet was prepared naming the roads, etc., and all should be aware of the map. (Chowchilla Mountain Road).

Pamela Salsbury reminded of public comment period ends on 2/3/23 at www.parkplanning.nps.gov Pamela has found an attorney to tentatively work with us/lobbyist to get local access through the park. Currently, the plan in 2024 is to deny pass through east to west for locals.

Colleen Murray wanted to recognize Caltrans and SCOPE volunteers in assisting with snow play issues. Assisted in keeping people out of the shoulders so people could pull over and install their snow chains. Baxter also thanked Adam Wimberly and Caltrans. Karen Glendenning also sent emails to the County and Adam thanking for their phenomenal job.

6. Election of Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Committee Membership Terms Discussion. Supervisor Smallcombe called for nomination: The following were

moved, seconded, and approved: Harter for Chair, Baxter for Vice Chair, and Rolfe for Secretary.

Part of the agenda packet listed all members and the expiration date of their terms.

Members	Appointed	Expires
Jeff Cerioni	04-24-90	02-28-24
James Christian	04-05-16	02-28-24
Greg Baxter	09-01-09	02-28-24
Brett Archer	10-26-21	02-28-23
John Luther	03-21-17	02-28-23
Margaret Rolfe	04-07-20	02-28-24
Robert Bassett	04-03-12	02-28-23
Don Harter	03-26-19	02-28-23
Greg Royse	02-05-13	02-28-23

Four committee members' terms are expiring, if they want to renew, they now need to complete formal documents, which Supervisor Smallcombe brought.

Supervisor Smallcombe will publish there is one open space on the board and will accept applications.

7. Vacation Rentals & B & Bs in Fish Camp- Update Steve Engfer

Vacation rentals are holding steady. There is a map with number information in the agenda packet. There are 36 current vacation rentals, two are bed and breakfast. There are applications pending. In the future, the date will be placed on the map provided.

Discussion was had regarding the process if neighbors object to the application. A noticed hearing will occur. Per Fish Camp rules. Ask planning department for additional information on process, if needed.

8. Fish Camp Firewise Report- Discussion and Potential Action for Firewise Community group for Fish Camp

Supervisor Smallcombe discussed background on Firewise recognition status. Firewise was created by the National Fire Protection Association. It's a nationwide program, that Cal Fire enthusiastically supports. After our last meeting, a small committee was formed, Donn Harter, Gretchen Hewlitt, and a member of the Sierra National Forrest, Ward and Supervisor Smallcombe. They would like additional volunteers. The process is simple, and even more simple for Fish Camp, over other communities. For now, each person should reach out to the community to find out which property owners wants to participate; what are they doing to reduce wildfire risk on their property; and what is a larger effort on behalf of the community? The committee will prepare a risk assessment. They will draw in the expertise of Wawona and Fire to assist with risk assessments; then put together action plan, what are the communities priorities, document priorities moving

forward. Submit application to NFPA to be approved. Any issues, Cal Fire will reach out to the person who submitted application; then deal with issues; determine reporting status. For example, if Baxter installs a fire resistant deck, he will submit the expense to the committee. At national level, they identify communities and have a budget for Fire Wise projects. Funds and volunteer hours will be reported. The homeowner will NOT be reimbursed, the expenditures are simply for tracking purposes.

One meeting guest asked about insurance rates if the community was rated Fire Wise. Generally, there's a 5-10% discount for the participating property. For example, if there's 198 properties in Fish Camp with 200 structures, and 160 participate in the Fire Wise program and the other 40 do not - the NFPA will send the Fire Wise certification letter to the 160. The property owner then provides that certification to their insurance carrier for the discount. It is hopeful that would in turn encourage the other 40 property owners to participate so they too would receive a certification and discount.

In addition to tracking the actual funds spent on our properties, volunteer hours are also tracked. Hours are valued at \$29.00 per hour. Each property owner should keep track of the time spent clearing fire risk debris from their property (i.e., raking those pine needles) and report them to the committee. All volunteer hours becomes part of the dollar value requested for Fish Camp

Gretchen Hewlitt explained further: A plan is submitted to NFP. We then have to report back on an annual basis. It's gross reporting. Total number of hours and total dollars in gross reporting. One hour per year for each property owner. There's a minimum number of hours that each property owner needs to meet. It wouldn't appear difficult to gather the hours since we're already raking anyway.

The biggest hurdle in the beginning is assessing the risk. Casagrande thought property owners would be "assessed" a fee. Gretchen explained that is not the process. It's simply an assessment of the community from the viewpoint of someone fighting a fire. Then a series of action is suggested for the community to maintain a FW status, i.e., raking needles, removing downed limbs, etc. Then there's a centralized point person to report your activities to and then the point gets back to FW. No requirement to have trees taken down or limbed. Program is neighbors helping keep properties safe. No agencies are coming in to tell you what to do with your property.

The committee has spoken with the FW coordinator of Tuolumne County. It's entirely voluntary. Debris on roof and gutters, type of roofing materials, posts attached to building, etc., help identify risk in community.

Volunteer fire group already pays for community chipping. That would fit into the FW plan we put forward - continue to offer chipping.

Our volunteer fire group is a 501c3 (charity) corporation. The volunteer group can then request a FW dollar grant, which makes keeping track of your volunteer hours and funds expended in clearing your property all the more important.

9. Ex Officio Reports:

a. USFS, District Ranger

Jennifer Christie - absent

b. CAL FIRE& Engine Co. 33

Steve Ward

Community Wildfire Protection Plan ("CWPP"). FC is one community identified in the plan. The CWPP discusses wild land around community. The relationship between CWPP County wide plan. Rather than asking community members. Merges two assessments together.

Karen Glendenning commented: Some are looking at obtaining a National Monument designation for the park, which in turn, will downgrade all roads. Delegate roads from community to the park. This designation will NOT allow air attacks on fire. Glendenning; This is a GREAT CRISIS IF PASSED. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE.

Colleen Murray: Spreading trees are a fire hazard. Watering them spreads them. Smaller trees growing vertically and separately from other trees is better. Do better with less water.

c. Sheriff's Department

**Sheriff Jeremy Briese-
absent**

d. NPS District Ranger

Chad Andrews - absent

Karen Glendenning: Our **public** library is in Wawona, which includes our free access to internet. As previously requested, please don't restrict the Fish Camp community from local access to the park.

e. Caltrans-Hwy 41 Supervisor

Adam Wimberley - absent

Per Murray: Busy working on Hwy 41 and unable to make meeting.

f. District I Supervisor

Rosemarie Smallcombe

Discussed moratorium on vacation rentals. Housing specialist is reviewing proposal for a study. This Tuesday at 2pm can call in Mariposa Board, requesting approval for integrated housing strategy. Proposing specific locations for single family residences and multi family that may be appropriate for county and park service employees. The study is in the board's packet for Tuesday's agenda.

Working with Tenaya and County Fire for staffing changes.

g. District I Planning Commissioner

Ed Walls, Absent

Supervisor Smallcombe: they have been meeting infrequently.

h. Department of Public Works, Director

**Shannon Hansen
Absent**

Emergency contract for road works approved. Dept of Public Works have been busy working on roads, including over night, to get roads clear. Shannon wants to know if there are issues with our roads that have been created by, or exacerbated by, the recent storms.

Glendenning: Has Worman Road been addressed? It's been reduced to half a lane.

10. Request for updates by Fish Camp citizens from various agencies, i.e: CHP, YNP, Sheriff, Public Works, Caltrans, Dept. of Interior, Planning, USFS & State, and Supervisor Smallcombe. (See Attached Memo).

Royce, Reinhart and McGinty SCOPE members present. Important to recognize the Mariposa Sheriff's department for providing a vehicle that's all wheel drive. Having the vehicle really assists. McGinty: New Year's day was very populated, can Tenaya post signs re: parking for registered guests only, etc. Public was parking there and then adding to the snow play stress. Response: Tenaya is going to install a key system.

Discussion was also had regarding the backup at the entrance of the park. One problem, the gates do not take cash and credit card processing takes 3- 5 minutes per car/card. In addition, all 3 kiosks were not open.

Discussion was had regarding traffic issues. The non emergency line for the Mariposa Sheriff should be called. It is then their responsibility to call the proper agency. Supervisor Smallcombe will ask commander in her area to see who our counterpart is to call when the backup. Supervisor Smallcombe asked her to forward what she sent to Healy and Shannon.

**11. Next scheduled meetings: Set meeting Calendar for 2023
April 29, 2023**

July 15, 2023
October 28, 2023
January 27, 2024

- 12. Future agenda items.** None.
- 13. Adjournment:** 11:18 a.m.