

**VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY
FIREWISE COMMUNITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014
1:00 P.M., VILLAGE OFFICES
AGENDA AND MINUTES**

I. Call to Order; Introduction of Members for the record

Kathy Bennett, Jim Woodard, Roger Pattison are members of the Firewise Community Board of Directors and were present at the meeting. April Bender, Sheila Duffy, and Bill Engle are also members, but were unable to attend. The meeting was called to order at 1:52 p.m., immediately following the Public Safety Meeting.

II. Everbridge Update – Roger Pattison

Roger was researching this company who sells Reverse 911 software that will notify members in the event of an emergency, i.e. Wildland fire. However, the cost is \$5,000 for 100 people to sign up; not very cost effective. The Department of Homeland Security can also provide this feature, but cost is unknown. Kathy said she would call Colfax County Firewise personnel as they have this feature and at one point invited the Village to join in with them. She'll report at the May 28th meeting.

III. Discussion – 3 person team(s) to do property assessment after Dan Ware training class.

Dan Ware, NM State Forestry Division, Fire prevention and Outreach Program Manager, and Chris Romo, State Forestry, and the person who did our Village Firewise Assessment Report, will present a 3 hour course on Thursday, May 8, 2014. It is a three hour course and pilot program to familiarize people about HIZ (Home Ignition Zone) and the Ember Zone. It is a Guide to Home Wildfire Assessment in New Mexico.

IV. Discussion of simtable and burnboss/air burner demonstrations at the June 10th VC Meeting

This Village Council Meeting will be held at the Columbine Inn Conference Center at 9:30 a.m. It will begin with a demonstration of a computer simulation of "what could happen" in the Village of Taos Ski Valley in the event of a wildland fire. It is extremely important that as many property owners as possible attend this meeting. After the meeting, including a power point presentation by the Burnboss people, there will be a live demonstration of this device. It is a portable incinerator that leave no debris after it has burnt wood; no wood chips, no nothing. This is a "must see" demo.

V. Progress Report on WUI and CWPP from John Miller

John said Taos County has put the CWPP on hold; I think that's what he said. Apparently they need to gather all stakeholders in a meeting at one time in order to proceed. Meanwhile, John said we can fall back on the CWPP that the County has for the Village of Taos Ski Valley, even though it is old and doesn't reflect what we really need it to reflect here in the Village. So there is no progress report. John is working on maps and identifying priority projects.

MOTION: To ask the Village to make it a priority to update maps to tell who owns what including new subdivisions and owner information.

Motion: Roger Pattison

Seconded: Jim Woodard

Passed: 3-0

Roger also suggested a dry hydrant at the end of Snowshoe Road. John said he would check out elevations, etc.

VI. Grant Research – application to Dan Ware first?

True. Kathy checked with Dan and he said we need to do the “to do” list prior to submitting our Firewise Community application to Dan. He then approves it and forwards it to a National Forestry committee in Washington D.C., who determine that we are indeed considered as a Firewise community. This makes the Village eligible for Grant money from several sources.

VII. Discussion regarding additional communications with property owners

The May 24th barbeque at the Mayor’s house will be one way to communicate with property owners and consider this a “firewise Community education day.” It follows the community wide clean up date in the morning. Also, a letter to all property owners, (appearing on the back of the Bear document) will update property owners about our Firewise efforts.

VIII. Evacuation Instructions made shorter/Distribution/Wildfire Evacuation Route signs

The document is in progress and will be available for every condo, residence, business, etc. Kathy said she would “google” or find a place that does evacuation route signs.

IX. Discussion regarding Firewise Education Days along with Clean up days.

May 24th is the first “firewise education day” along with a barbeque at the Mayor’s house and an informal town meeting. July 4th will be the next “firewise education day” and we will arrange for another “firewise education day” in September.

X. Miscellaneous – Action Plan?

The action plan includes thinning/Home Ignition Zone Assessment’s, ingress/egress to properties, roads, turnarounds, maps. We also need to work with the Forest Service too.

Kathy asked Dave Wallace is the sewer plant was fire proof. He said it was fire “resistant” as there is not a lot of vegetation around it.

XI. Date, Time, Place of next Meeting.

The BOD will meet on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, at the Village Offices immediately following the 1:00 p.m., meeting of the Public Safety Committee Meeting.

XII. Adjournment. – Roger Pattison made the motion; seconded by Jim Woodard.