

SEELEY LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2010 – SEELEY LAKE HISTORICAL "BARN"

PRESENT: Jon Haufler, Diane Weatherman, Walt Hill, Carol Evans, Addrien Marx

ABSENT: George Frasca, Gary Pelletier

PUBLIC: 33 Community Members

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST: Kris Gullikson

Meeting commenced at 6:04 p.m.

MINUTES: Evans moved for approval of minutes from the December 2009 meeting. Hill seconded. No changes. All in favor. Haufler noted; approved minutes will be posted on the Council website.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Weatherman reported an error on the last balance of -\$10.11. \$25.00 in bills were presented (SL Community Hall) and paid. The current balance is now \$9776.75.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Seeley Lake Sewer Dist.; Randy Gordon. Asking for Community Council and resident letters of support for Sewer expansion be sent to Mt. Legislators.
2. Office of Environmental Quality; comparing a town in Maine to Seeley Lake
3. Phil Niebauer
4. SLCC on Seeley Lake Land Use Plan to MCC
5. DNRC- Scoping notice for SL community trails license. Comments due by Jan. 22 to Liz Mullins @ DNRC.
6. Kris Gullikson- letter on Good Neighbor Recognition (Valley Block Party).

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT: Marx provided an update on the funding of the project and explained its scope. Next month a full expense report will be given for 2009.

OLD BUSINESS:

Recording of SLCC meetings: Discussion was tabled from the December meeting for full Council input. Discussion on format (video vs. audio) and benefits to community. Funding was an issue of concern as the MCC had previously stated the Council would need to pay for any equipment acquired out of their current budget. Chris Stout, Superintendent of Seeley Lake Elementary offered equipment the school owns and staff assistance to get it going.

MOTION: Evans moved for approval for recording the meetings in an appropriate format with the assistance of the SLE equipment and expertise. Marx seconded. All in favor.

Haufler asked Gullikson to facilitate the start up beginning at the Feb. 2010 meeting.

AIR QUALITY: Haufler gave a summary of the project history including the Real Time Monitor operations in Seeley Lake since mid-November 2009. Presenting for Missoula Co. was Ben Schmidt accompanied by Mamie Colburn and Shannon Therriault with the Health Dept. Schmidt gave a Power Point presentation for educational purposes. He spoke of the health risks of PM 2.5. He noted that according to the data collected by the monitor, SL has been out of compliance 19 days in the first 6 weeks of operation. He reported this is higher than Missoula as well as the rest of the state. Most in attendance said results seemed to be worse than expected. Due to major fluctuations in readings on an hourly basis, the new information made it clear that it would be difficult for the community to initiate a warning system as previously discussed. Schmidt went on to explain that the monitor installed in Seeley Lake was not a referenced-based monitor and cannot be used for non-attainment levels. If the readings were to be tabulated according to EPA standards, MC would need to install an equivalence method real time monitor. The current monitor was installed at the request of the Council to gather data and assist residents to make necessary preparations for the community to be in compliance. Schmidt explained that the County will gather readings for 3 consecutive years for the determination, however, because of the type of the current monitor, this year will not be counted as one of those 3. Discussion followed on placement of the monitor, types, if more than one could be used and averaged, and also costs. Mr. Don Ditty volunteered aid and services to relocate the monitor if and when requested. The purpose of Schmidt's visit was to assist the community with educational information, grant writing and research. He stated that the County knows that SL will need to make its own plan to move forward with. The Council suggested reinstating the Air Quality Committee and set a meeting date to start on research. Residents were invited to participate in planning efforts. Meeting date was set for Jan. 21 at 5 pm at Pyramid Mountain Lumber.

LAND USE PLAN: The Missoula Co. Commissioners will be in Seeley Lake for a hearing on the LUP on Feb. 4 with extension if necessary on Feb. 8. at 6 pm at the Elementary School The question of "grandfathering language" was discussed. According to the Council, the County Attorney has not been forthcoming with providing the example that was offered by RI at an earlier meeting.

MOTION: Hill moved for the SL Council to write a letter to the MCC asking for assistance to attain the MC Attorney's cooperation in crafting appropriate language before their Feb. 4th visit to Seeley Lake. Weatherman seconded. All in favor.

ITEEM MEETING: Weather prevented Haufler and Love from attending in person. Instead, a phone conference was conducted. A review of the report on a previous workshop from a year ago was reviewed. The next step identified potential ways to improve Highway 83 through advance mitigation. Funds are needed to move ITEEM forward, as coordinated landscape planning is already underway.. At present, the Federal Highway Dept. is investigating whether they can provide funding to the ITEEM initiative prior to Route 83 becoming an official road project. Haufler will report to the Council when he has further information.

RECREATION/TRAILS: Haufler reported that the Council had held its second meeting to discuss the community's vision of a trail system for recreational activities. This meeting specifically addressed trails around the town of Seeley Lake. Discussion focused on desired trails (existing or proposed), and their types of uses (non-motorized, non-motorized and snowmobile, ATV, or all vehicles). Various suggestions for new trails for each of these categories were suggested. Additional meetings will be held (dates to be determined) to obtain additional suggestions for trails in other parts of the Valley and to provide community input for an overall plan for a trail system. A meeting date will be set and public notification posted for a Feb. meeting.

Relative to correspondence received, the DNRC made public a scoping notice for a proposed SL community trail through DNRC lands in section 36 by the High School. Comments due by Jan. 22 to Liz Mullins @ DNRC.

Elaine's Way: Issues discussed at last meeting are not resolved at this time. All agreed that maps and signage should not direct snowmobile traffic in that direction, and thereby keeping recreational traffic to a minimum.

Seeley Lane and Rice Creek: Discussion on keeping tourists from driving down the lane and not being able to turn around at the dead end. This item will be added to next month's agenda for further discussion.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Hill presided over the last meeting in Dec. It was not well attended due to the holidays. Questions discussed included whether or not the development should be internal or external. Next meeting TBD.

GOOD NEIGHBOR RECOGNITION: Though Haufler was in support of the dissolution of the Good Neighbor Committee, he advised the Council that in order to dissolve the actions of the Council, a motion needed to be brought forward and approved.

MOTION: Marx moved for dissolution of the Council committee and allowing the presently functioning committee to move forward with plans for the newly named "Valley Block Party". Evans seconded. All in favor.

REQUEST FROM SEWER BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Randy Gordon has requested the Council write a letter of support for the SL Sewer system expansion. Such letters from the Council need to go to the Commissioners and ask them to write a letter of support for the community. Haufler will contact Gordon and appraise him of this plan of action. The item will be discussed at the February meeting.

Upcoming meetings:

Jan 21 - Air Quality: 5 pm at Pyramid Mtn. Lumber

February 1 - SLCC at 6 pm at the Barn

February 4 - MCC in Seeley Lake to discuss Land Use Plan. 6 pm at the Elementary School. (possibly extend to Feb. 8)

Economic Development Committee: TBD

Recreation/Trails: TBD

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm