

SEELEY LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 1, 2010 – SEELEY LAKE HISTORICAL "BARN"

PRESENT: Adreïn Marx , Jack Greenwood, MaryAnn Morin, Steve Johnson, George Frasca, Walt Hill, Carol Evans

PUBLIC: 6 present

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST: Kris Gullikson

Meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES: Hill moved for approval of minutes from the October meeting. Morin seconded. No changes. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Morin reported the October 31 balance in checking was \$3042.90, Trails checking was 7569.32. Balance in CD's (2) are 4758.99 for total assets of \$15,371.21. \$715.75 in expenses were paid for the Woodstove Open House (Air Quality), and \$310.00 for Trails expenses. Morin moved for approval of the October Treasurer's Report. Evans seconded. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS: Letters from Missoula Co. on coordination of woodstove event; SL Ranch easement on coordination of trail right of way, and T-4 Ranch Subdivision Sufficiency packet for review.

OLD BUSINESS:

All Community Council Meeting: Marx shared that BCC has proposed 3 dates to select from for them to host the next ACC meeting and requested Council select a date. Dec. 1 was chosen. Marx will let BCC know and get back to Council when a date is confirmed.

SEELEY LAKE SEWER BOARD: Randy Gordon spoke on behalf of the sewer project and requested the Council assist to get the word out as to how important this project is for the town of Seeley Lake. He reported that the Sewer Board is proposing to purchase 25 acres behind the SL Community Hall for a location for this project. There is much work to be done and a lot of misinformation going around, so Gordon gave out his personal phone number to refer folks to if they have questions. He informed the Council on the feasibility study for NBR vs. SBR (treatment methods). Currently, because of initial funding, they are looking to use an NBR plant with future options of updating to the SBR. April 2011 is the projected build date. Prior to that there will need to be a Bond Election to pay for the project. If those who have received the Income Survey would send them back that would be appreciated, as the Dist. stands to lose millions in funding if the basis for the grants stay as they are now. Gordon also explained that the Dist. proposed applying for a 15 year loan in Jan. 2011 for \$100,000 with a variable 1.95%. He stated that may need to be voted on as well. Gordon stated the community's support is needed at this time to move forward on these issues.

T-4 SUBDIVISION: Roger and Joan Harbin of Placid Lake have applied for a variance on their property to build a new home. According to records there are 4 homes currently on the property. A Sufficiency Review was provided and Council table discussion until Dec. to review it.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA FACILITY: Kayl Good and Trish Harnisch (licensed caregivers/owners) attended and shared plans for their business. At present the law states each Caregiver may have up to 12 clients. They have been in business for 1 1/2 years in another location. Good stated the building (HCP building or the old Drug Store in SL) was selected specifically because it is secure. Residents present stated concerns about location, signage, visibility and the future of the operation. Owners stated they are willing to work with Council and offered to change their sign to reflect actual numerals rather than letters (as shown it says 667-WEED). Other plans mentioned include: public events for education purposes, paraphernalia will be sold there, as well as vaporizers

and gardening and soil supplies. Owners stated they had invited local law enforcement to tour the facility, but the offer had not yet been accepted.

NEW BUSINESS:

SPONSORED LICENSE PLATES: Gullikson reported that she and Ron Cox had done initial research for this project to fund the Communications Project as the funds are quickly dwindling. Cox presented the findings. The project was briefly discussed and sent to the Economic Development Committee for further consideration. It will be added to the committee's Dec. agenda.

TOWN SIGNAGE: Gullikson presented (for discussion) the "Welcome" signs into Seeley Lake. The signs are in disrepair and in need of fixing or replacing. Discussion plans for "branding" Seeley Lake. It was suggested the Chamber of Commerce be contacted to seek further assistance and find out specifically what has been done. Gullikson reported she had spoken with Kevin Wetherell and was told that the Chamber had applied to the Community Foundation for the repair of the signs and been turned down. No other information was given at that time on future plans. Chamber member in attendance suggested further contact as the Chamber has been meeting to discuss a "branding image" for Seeley Lake. Also mentioned was the number of "sandwich" signs around town is increasing and gives a "haphazard" appearance to the community. Gullikson suggested combining with other civic groups on town to look into a reader board (type sign) that could be used by organizations and civic groups to advertise meetings and events. Council suggested the Economic Development Committee take on this project and report back.

COMMUNITY INPUT FORMS: Gullikson pointed out possible issues (loopholes) and the opportunity for the Council to improve upon communications with the members in the community. Those that choose to take the time to write for assistance/inquiry to the Council are requested to use this form (available online and handed out at the meetings). If they do not attend the meeting, however, she suggested a personal contact be made. Mixed responses were heard from the Council, and Evans motioned for postcards to be purchased and printed with a standard reply. Motion 2nd by Morin. Motion did not pass. Discussion ensued. Some admitted this will be encouraging more input and attendance at meetings from the residents. Morin stated, in the past, the community perception of the Council was that it was an "elitist group" and perhaps actions like this could contribute to changing that perception.

New motion: Evans motioned to arrange a system of acknowledging the submitted input forms. Seconded by Morin. All in favor. Left up to Secretary on how to respond. Gullikson and Evans will meet and determine a useable system.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

SEELEY LAKE LAND USE PLAN: The Seeley Lake Pathfinder was heralded for the great job on the article describing the final meeting in Seeley Lake with The BCC to wrap up the LUP on October 20. The plan has been modified to reflect changes over the past few months and is now "over and done". Attendees asked what was next and were told County zoning will be done on a case by case basis and done to comply with the Plan.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Steve Johnson and Walt Hill reported the groups next meeting on Nov. 11th at the Barn. They will be looking for a "direction for this ship". There were appx. 6 at the last meeting. They discussed "gardening" (facilitate growth) or "attracting" (new business, additional growth) business to the area. Hill reported that Montana is rated in the top 5 states for business tax incentives. Also he reported that the State Park at Placid Lake recorded 10,718 vehicles per year visit the site, and the Seeley Lake Nordic organization's new website has had the most internet "hits" within Montana for information on nordic skiing for the upcoming winter season. The group, admittedly, has no clear vision but will continue the search.

AIR QUALITY: The Woodstove Family Open House was declared a great success and Caroline Jenkins was recognized as the lead coordinator. The event was well attended by residents in the community and comments ranged from- "..will there be another event next year?" to "..great information!". The Council Board cooked the food and manned the information tables and Mo. County assisted as well. Many comments were made on what a great time it was for all. Evans will send out Thank You's to the appropriate volunteers.

TRAILS COMMITTEE UPDATE: Ron Cox has sent an email with a listing of updates. *It will be added to the website for viewing. Seeley Lake Ranch easement is progressing and a meeting with all parties will be facilitated. The Forest Service has agreed to take on the project with the County doing the work and issuing the easement. Proposed: Lisa Moisey ask Public Works to do the survey design and plat and the Forest Service do a hazardous waste survey for the project. Cox suggested the Council write to BCC and request the county get moving on this project as a way to jumpstart it. In doing so, perhaps the BCC can instigate Public Works to move forward. Discussion. It was decided that communications will go through Pat O'Herron with Rural Initiatives. Hill had spoken with the landowner and reported he was still willing to go through with the project. Koepcke and Frasca will meet with the owner. Cox reported that the May/June grant cycle request to the State may not be available for both the Seeley Lake Ranch easement and the section at the High School at the same time. More research will be done on this issue. Cox publicly thanked the Forest Service for all the work they have done this year on the trail system in Seeley Lake. Council Chair requested the Economic Development committee also assist in discussion with property owner.

PLOWING OF BRIDGE: It was reported that the County's response was "cool" to the idea of the plowing of the walkway over the bridge at the High School, but (RI) will be contacting the Highway Dept. to inquire if they will take care of it. A letter was requested from the SLCC to the BCC to show support of this request on behalf of the community. No results were available as yet from Dr. Pecora (HS Principal) relating to her correspondence on this issue.

MOTION: Johnson motioned for the Council to write a letter requesting the County plow the walkway over Morrell Creek by the High School for safety reasons. Seconded by Evans. All in Favor. Johnson and Morin will draft the letter.

RECORDS STORAGE: Johnson reported the Council file cabinets are in the new location in the County Building garage. The key is available from Johnson at Pyramid if arranged in advance. Discussion on location of files. Evans will coordinate an all-Council organization get together to reorganize and clean up files. Morin stated she had Trails files to add.

Hill encouraged the Council to investigate the Co. park sites and reported that there had not been much input to the Co. online survey from the Seeley Lake residents on the park proposals. *This information is listed on the Council website under "trails".

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm