

SEELEY LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 6, 2010 – SEELEY LAKE HISTORICAL "BARN"

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

ABSENT: Addrein Marx

PUBLIC: 9 present

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST: Kris Gullikson

Meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Morin reported a balance of \$1258.65 in Bank Acct. and \$7879.32 in Trails acct. The 2 CD accounts total \$4000.00. All totaled is \$13,137.97. Paid this month: \$50.00 for meeting room expense and \$10 for Trails expense.

COMMUNICATIONS: Letters from:

- Seeley Lake Community Foundation (SLCF) with a \$2500 check for the fall Open House being planned by the Air Quality Committee. Ben Schmidt (MC) will be at the health fair with a map for potential sites for new AQ measuring sites.
- Missoula County Commissioners to Montana Dept. Transportation requesting guardrails be installed along Salmon Lake. Also requested Hwy. 83 be put on High Priority List (as this Council has recently repeatedly requested).
- BCC Meeting notice- (BCC and MDT) Hwy. 83 is on the agenda. Oct. 4, 1:30 pm in Msla. Hill plans on attending.
- West Valley Community Council- a presentation by Suzanne Miller on the Mt. Challenge Project. Referred to Economic Development Committee for discussion. Added to Oct. agenda.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT: Evans reported difficulty in obtaining completed stories to include in the 2nd edition of the monthly newsletter due to the busy season and lack of submissions by the infrastructure boards. Gullikson provided an update on how the process has been done up to now and what might improve the process. Evans encouraged the Board to submit reports to Gullikson in a timely manner to be included in the Newsletters.

Email update: Gullikson handed out instructions for using the Council's email accounts. Gullikson suggested upgrading for more storage if the board felt it was necessary. Currently, some accounts are full due to the limited storage capacity. Not all members are checking accts. at this time and replying from Council email acct. due to the forwarding of the emails to personal accts.

Motion made by Morin and seconded by Frasca to remove the forwarding of Council email to each board member's personal email accounts in order to encourage the Board to use the Council email for replies to business inquiries. Gullikson suggested more exposure of the new Citizen Input form; available at the meetings, posted around town and it is on the website. Council approved this suggestion. Jenkins offered to include it in the Pathfinder for easy access as well.

Greenwood read news sheet from RI on updates of misc. items. Also noted, a resort tax had been passed in Craig, Mt. to pay for their sewer system. The vote was 21 to 8 and had previously failed in April 2009.

Hill reported on response to Candidate Night by candidates (15 are coming) and updated Council on plans for the meeting night on Sept 7th. Ballots will go out by mail on Oct. 4, 2010.

Update on Hwy. 83 upgrades: It was noted that by adding the guardrails, the highway will be 2 feet narrower thereby making it even more dangerous for bicyclists. Discussion on history of hwy. improvements.

Council agreed to keep the ITEEM on the agenda until such time that the MDT puts Hwy. 83 on the High Priority List for improvements.

NEW BUSINESS:

ATV Trails: Ken Kronsperger reported attending the Marshall Block meeting (Evan there as well). (Noted a letter from the Council was forthcoming in support). He felt the ATV trails portion of the plan had been "stonewalled as always". He suggested looking into using ATV trails as XC trails in the winter. He added he was informed that the planners were trying not to close any more trails than they have to.

High School Bridge Path plowing: New High School Principal, Dr. Kathleen Pecora, attended as this item was on the agenda to offer support and to meet the Council members. Johnson reported on the state of the bridge and plowing issues. He offered to talk to Hwy. Dept. employee that plows and request he turn the plow so the pathway is left open. Pecora said

she will talk to Maintenance at the High School or the State Hwy Dept. to see if they can assist in plowing and will email the State School Coordinator for suggestions. Johnson will contact Rural Initiatives for support from the county.

Animal Control in SL: Resident requested Council look into this issue on their behalf. Discussion on past history. Johnson will contact Rural Initiatives for support from the county. Residents requested more of a presence here to deter dogs chasing deer and otherwise being a nuisance.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Johnson reported on Sept. 2 meeting. A presentation was made by Karen Pratt and Dave Clance on the Nordic Ski Center proposal. The economic impact on this area is unknown at present, but it is known that if the recreators to the area are without a warming hut- they will go elsewhere! Something is needed as incentive for them to stay in the area longer. The Chamber of Commerce is reportedly investigating packages for winter visitors. Over \$3000 has been raised out (of the required \$10,000) for the grant. SLCF initiated the Nordic Challenge (a \$500 matching grant) to fulfill the requirement for the grant. Appx. \$2000 more is needed to meet that goal by Nov.

He also reported receiving a CD on Mt. DOT Econ. Study on Montana Airports. For Seeley Lake's airport alone, the impact on the state economy is 13 jobs and 1.1 million dollars to the State of Mt. He stated that it reported that 37% of the visitors to Mt. utilize a Montana airport to get here. John Richards suggested that the Econ. Dev. committee look into getting a fence (like Lincoln has) around the runway at the airport as deer are always a dangerous obstacle.

TRAILS COMMITTEE UPDATE: Frasca reiterated that Volunteer forms are available and need to be turned into himself or Ron Cox. Carol Koepcke reported the Missoula Co. Trails meeting is Oct. 5th at 7 pm at the Elem. call 258-4716 for more information. The format is for break-apart sessions for more involvement.

A new trail on Riverview Dr. for bikes and walkers. The prep work is almost done. It will be paved as the walking path in town. It will be done this fall. Morin requested the Trails Committee look into plowing the walking trails in winter.

NEXT MEETING on LUP: Oct. 20th from 6-9 pm in Seeley Lake at the Community Hall.

County Storage: Johnson is looking into the use of the recently acquired Co. building (old Plum Creek Bldg.) for a Council storage facility- indoors. There are 3 filing cabinets and now the sound system to be stored.

Upcoming meetings:

Seeley Lake Community Council: Oct. 4, 6 pm at the Barn

Seeley Lake Land Use Plan: Oct. 20 at Community Hall, 6-9 pm

County Trails: Oct. 5 at SL Elem.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm