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Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC)
Meeting Notes
BVCC Meeting – October 9, 2013
Compiled by Jackie Morrissey – Acting Secretary

The council meeting was held in the Library of Bear Valley Elementary School, 15001 Mountain Air Drive, and began at 7:00 pm. Fourteen members attended, indicating a quorum of members present.

BVCC Acting Chair Cheri Lipps opened the meeting and introduced the first speaker, John Weddleton, Hillside Area Land Owners (HALO).

HALO – John Weddleton

HALO (since 1969) has goals similar to that of our community council – to preserve the large-lot rural lifestyle. HALO sponsors the annual Candidate Forums in March. HALO is active in the Hillside District Plan (HDP), and supports the ‘dark skies’ policy of the HDP, which has to do with rural lighting standards. HALO also sponsored a report on the quality of Hillside well water as part of the Well Water Protection Program recommended in the HDP. To see the report online, go to anchoragehalo.org.

Fire Safety – Tom Oxnam and Crew - Station 10

Thanks go out to the community from Anchorage firefighters for abiding by the burn bans and being responsible during this past very dry summer.

October is Fire Safety Month:

Set up a meeting place outside of the home for your family in case of fire.

Do fire drills with your family.

In case of a fire, do not go back in a burning building for animals.

Get smoke alarms that allow you to record Mom or Dad’s voice. Kids do not hear traditional smoke alarms.

Check your heating system and clean chimneys and flues once a year.

Make sure the fresh air intake for your furnace is not plugged.



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The most important tools in your house, without question, are your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. They are inexpensive and easy and can save your life. Check or replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and (CO) detectors once a year. CO detectors have a life span of 5-10 years, depending on the make and model. Smoke detectors are required by building code to be installed outside and immediately adjacent to sleeping quarters. CO detectors are required by building code to be installed in and outside immediately adjacent to sleeping quarters. CO is odorless, tasteless and is not visible. It mixes easily with the ambient air.

If your CO detector goes off, close all of the windows, get outside immediately, close the doors, and call AFD. If you close all of the windows and doors, AFD can test the air in the house to find the problem. If you open the windows and doors, AFD will have to close them and wait until CO builds up again before they test the air.

BVCC Membership – Cheri Lipps

BVCC membership dues are \$5.00 per year and are voluntary. Membership dues support HALO, general supplies, memorials, and our annual community cleanup. The BVCC Community Council's current balance is \$1,082.45.

BVCC Officer Position Vacancies – Cheri Lipps

Volunteers are needed to fill the BVCC Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, HALO Representative, Member-at-Large, Assembly Liaison, Member-at-Large, and Committee Coordinator, Member-at-Large. The term is one year. Volunteers willing to take on any aspect of any position are also welcome.

Chair: The position remains unfilled, but Cheri Lipps offered to maintain the duties of the Chair until the position is filled.

Vice Chair: The seat remains unfilled.

Secretary: Cheri Lipps nominated Amy McLeod and Jackie Morrissey quickly seconded. Mrs. McLeod accepted the nomination and the vote was unanimous in favor of Mrs. McLeod.

Treasurer: Angie Pinsonneault has volunteered to continue the position but was unable to attend this meeting. There were no nominations, thus the seat remains unfilled.

HALO Representative: Cheri Lipps nominated Dan Stone and David Lipps seconded. Mr. Stone accepted the nomination, and the vote was unanimous in favor of Mr. Stone.



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Assembly Liaison: Cheri Lipps nominated Rodney Powell and Leonard Stanley seconded. Mr. Powell accepted the nomination, and the vote was unanimous in favor of Mr. Powell.

Committee Coordinator: Cheri Lipps nominated Sean Holland and David Lipps seconded. Mr. Holland accepted the nomination, and the vote was unanimous in favor of Mr. Holland.

Committee Updates

Joe Burnam has applied for a two-year extension for his development at the top of Paine Road. A member stated that his work so far has changed the drainage lower down.

Pat Abney is working with the Assembly, Mayor, and Parks and Recreation to dedicate all known parks in the municipality for permanent or long-term park or recreational purposes so that the Assembly cannot convey an interest in dedicated parkland for private use without a vote of the public. The parks in our community are Bear Tracks Park and Section 36. Cheri Lipps will move forward with the resolution to rededicate those two parks.

Road LRSA's Annual 4th Quarter Update – Bill Ennis, David Lipps

Bear Valley LRSA – Alaska Pollution Control, managed by Carl Luchinger, will be the new service provider for the LRSA beginning 1 January, 2014. Carl held the LRSA contract for many years in the past, is careful in his work, has heavy equipment including a snow blower, and understands the challenges of Bear Valley. The LRSA board has requested that a mill rate increase (from the current rate of 1.5 mills) be on the ballot in the April election.

The 2013 fiscal year LRSA budget was \$63,657. Invoices in that year included the following:

January - \$22,140 (37% of our annual budget)

February - \$2,500

March - \$3,300

May - \$13,200

In the five months from January to May we spent \$43,000, which is 67% of our annual budget. We have an emergency fund, but we have \$800 in our regular fund for this last quarter. We may have to request funding



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from other sources if we have a harsh fall/winter. The LRSA is also looking at some culvert issues, and will be installing speed limit signage and a warning sign similar to the one at the top of Heights Hill, hopefully before freeze up.

Rodney Powell commented that the material graded from the top of the roads has been pushed into berms, which channel the water onto the roads, not into the ditches. Bill Ennis said that he would talk to Carl Luchinger about the situation.

There is one neighborhood past the LRSA boundary that is on its own for snow removal and road maintenance.

The Bear Valley LRSA's website is <https://sites.google.com/site/bearvalleylrsa/>

Rabbit Creek View/Heights Hill LRSA – The Rabbit Creek View/Heights Hill LRSA board consists of David Lipps, Leonard Stanley, and Dan Stone. Rumor has it that Alaska Pollution Control will be the new service provider for this LRSA also. Carl Luchinger is known to have experience, the right equipment, and qualified operators. The annual LRSA budget is \$88,000. The average December service runs from \$7,000 to \$10,000. Last winter's bills included:

December - \$22,000

February – \$26,000

March - \$21,000 +

The LRSA had spent 70-80% of its yearly budget before the snow melted. Robust ice mitigation and drainage issues were responsible for the high costs. The service is limited, thus the Limited Road Service name. The LRSA is at a 2.5 mil rate. Road improvements, ditches, and alder removal are not part of the LRSA's responsibility, only the travelled surface way.

There have been concerns about Heights Hill. The chip seal surface was highly damaged and too costly to keep repairing so it was turned back under to the gravel surface. Maury Robinson from the Municipality has promised to send a couple of his estimators out to Heights Hill to help assess the cost to bring the road to a higher standard with a more permanent surface and improved drainage. The LRSA is intending to pursue outside money sources through our representatives. Representative Mike Hawker was very helpful in getting grant money from the State to upgrade Honey Bear Lane.

Speed is the number one cause of potholes, so please slow down! Also, if you see someone speeding, call the APD non-emergency number (789-8900) and give the vehicle description and license plate number.



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APD will investigate as long as they have the available manpower. If you call APD for that or for any reason, email the same information to Cheri Lipps (bvcc@alaska.net) if you would like her to follow up on it with a liaison officer.

If residents wish to cut back trees/alders blocking signage or overgrowing the road, there will be no repercussion as long as the debris is removed and not put up onto private property.

Open Forum

Crime Watch – Our community has had a significant amount of thefts recently. Most people have by now converted to the locked mailboxes. There will be a new cluster box installed at the end of Kings Way, and several boxes are still available on Jamie for a onetime charge of \$240.

Please lock your house, shed, and vehicle doors and windows. Do not leave keys, wallets, purses, door openers, guns, etc, in full view in your vehicle. Dozens of people have reported someone rattling doorknobs trying to get into their homes, even in the middle of the day when they were there. There is evidence of someone breaking into and living in empty homes when people were on vacation.

It is important to report everything to APD. The more reports they have, the better able they are to discern a pattern and patrol the area. Keep an eye out for a white Ford extended cab pickup truck that has been seen in the area between 2:00am and 5:00am under suspicious circumstances.

The muni website has a place to sign up for Crime Mapping email notifications within a radius (up to two miles) of any given location (such as your house).

Mountain Air Extension – Cathy Geissel’s representative, Shawn Ayers, was asked to invite Cathy Giessel to a BVCC meeting to explain why she allowed the Mountain Air extension project money, a 75% funded project, to be reallocated to Goldenview.

Rodney Powell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm. David Lipps seconded.

The next Bear Valley Community Council meeting will be held on **November 13, 2013**, at the Bear Valley Elementary School. Please forward any meeting topic ideas to Cheri Lipps.

Please consider renewing your membership with a donation of \$5 or more. All donations are tax deductible and we appreciate your financial support.



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Meeting minutes, notes, agendas, and other BVCC topics of interest can be obtained by going to the BVCC web page at www.communitycouncils.org and selecting Bear Valley.