

Gerle Creek Summer Home Tract
Association Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2014

Bill Dillon, Gerle Creek Summer Home Tract President, thanked everyone for coming and called the meeting to order with a roll call. We had a quorum.

SAD NEWS

There were 3 deaths in the Gerle Creek Summer Home Tract Association this past year:

George Weimer on December 14, 2013
Wayne Lile on April 26, 2014
Pat Brattland on May 30, 2014

George Weimer and his parents were original tract owners. Before his declining health, he always helped with the tract. He was a big asset.

Wayne Lile was a past board member. He was a retired fire captain who instructed the fire classes for the tract. He was always there to assist.

Pat Brattland, Mike's wife, was a contributor to Mike's website. She was a great neighbor.

All 3 members will be missed.

GOOD NEWS

A welcome and applause to the new cabin owners of lot #44, Keith and Reina Belford.

APPROVAL OF THE 2013 MEETING MINUTES

No questions were asked. It was moved/seconded by Virtue(47)/Fluke(22) and carried to approve the 2013 meeting minutes as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2014/2015

Brad Dillon, Gerle Creek Summer Home Tract Treasurer, presented the proposed budget for 2014/2015. He passed out copies of budget and no questions were asked. It was moved/seconded by Boyd(21)/Brinsky(42) and carried to accept 2014/2015 budget.

REMINDERS

1. DRAUGHT

We are in a draught. The well is doing okay, but at any time we could lose water. The water table is low this year. Please take it easy with our water. Anything we can do to help conserve water is appreciated.

2. GUESTS

Cabin owners are responsible for their guests. Cabin owners need to explain the rules and regulations to guests.

3. SHOOTING

No shooting is allowed within the cabin tract. Please remember the danger involved with shooting, especially around buildings and propane tanks.

4. DRIVING WITHIN TRACT

There is a 5 mile an hour speed limit within our tract. Please be considerate of your neighbors. Let's keep the dust down.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There is a county requirement that our cabins have anti-siphon valves on our hose bibs. Remove the locking screw. Do not tighten locking screw. If you tighten the locking screw, it will break off. Then you won't be able to take the anti-siphon valve off the faucet at the end of the season. Anti-siphon valves need to be removed at the end of the season for proper drainage of faucets.

2014 WORK PARTY DATES/PROJECTS

Work party projects are **now to include**:

1. Turning the water system ON at the start of the season.
2. Turning the water system OFF at the end of the season.

Each year/season these 2 work party/project dates will be determined by the weather.

3. July 19, 2014 will be cleaning around pump house/well area and inside the pump house. Every year the pump house needs cleaning, and every year the same people do this job. Let's get more volunteers to help clean this area. The back/side of the pump house needs raking/cleaning. Volunteers are needed to take pipe/piers away. These projects are not just for board members. They are for everyone.
4. August 23, 2014 projects will be determined at later date.

A big thank you and applause to all who helped with the downed tree on the lower road, the broken main line, and pump house repairs. You know who you are, and we thank you.

NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS

Mike Brattland, Brad Dillon, and Alan Vella are up for reelection this year. There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved/seconded by Boyd(21)/Holmes(33) and carried to keep Mike, Brad, and Alan in office.

Bill Dillon is running for president again. There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved/seconded by Colson(34)/Kiefer(4) and carried to re-elect Bill as president.

TRACT INFORMATION Q/A

1. The water is now potable, and sign is on the bulletin board.
2. Only permittees can be on the Board.
3. At this time, yard burning permits have been canceled until fire danger season is over.
4. Campfires/BBQ questions will be answered by Forest Service.
5. The hazard vegetation/tree cutting project by the lower road will be discussed by Forest Service.
6. The condition of the pump/well/generator is a hard question to answer. We have been fortunate so far with this generator. There is over 7,000 hours on the generator. You never know how long it will last. It is Dave Gondola who has done a lot of work on our generator and a round of applause was given for all his work and knowledge. He is the reason why the generator continues to run today.
7. It was noted that Bill Dillon works on all work parties.
8. There was a snapped pine tree on the lower road this past winter. Help yourself to the rounds. A wood cutting permit would be a good idea to obtain.
9. Cabin #38 is up for sale. Bill Dillon will show cabin to any interested persons. Price is negotiable. Contact Pam Lile. Boat/trailer/motor is also for sale. The quad, jeep, and log splitter have already been sold.

FOREST SERVICE PRESENTATION

Richard Thornburgh was our Forest Service Representative. He enjoyed last year's meeting and decided to bring his wife and family this year.

FOREST UPDATES

This past year was a great working relationship between the Tract and Forest. Together we resolved the new Tract Permit that covers the Association. It was a good solution.

Last year we had a discussion about the vegetation between the lower tract road and Wentworth Springs Road. A little piece (about 5-7 acres) was missed on previous thinning projects. Mr. Thornburgh is working with staff to take care of the necessary reviews and documentation to thin out and to reduce fire danger. This will be a positive thing. Expect some crews and fire organization to work on this project as long as they are available and not working on fires. The project will be started, but he could not promise completion this year. It will generate firewood opportunities with a valid woodcutters permit (available at any ranger station or supervisor's office) to be able to gather some firewood. There is a 2 cord limit for each of our cabins. This was a good thing that the forest service worked on this year. Also, risk of fire danger may hamper the thinning project.

Lot #20 was concerned about headlights from Gerle Creek Campground (since they are across from entrance). Mr. Thornburgh is going to work with staff about exact specifications, the idea is to thin, leaving bigger trees, also using ladder effect, and therefore, reducing chance of fire spread.

Chainsaw use depends on the day, using the PAL level. There is a number to call every day to see if it is a cutting day or not. So call to see if it is a cutting day before starting any chainsaws.

Staff wise, the Forest Service is thin this year. Melanie Hornsby took a job with BLM in Nevada. Amy Reed will be our main contact for the foreseeable future with permit issues for our cabins. Debbie Gaynor is on a 4 month assignment in the regional office in Vallejo.

Please be patient working with Amy. If you have any questions, be sure to contact Amy.

Cabin owners need to take care of their own pine needles. Do not put on slash piles. This increases fire danger. You can burn a **SMALL HANDFULL** in a campfire. Burning pine needles tend to send embers into the air, so it is imperative that if you do burn them, to be sure it is done in very small handfuls at a time. (The Forest Service fire crew prefers that they not be burned at all.)

There are fire restrictions on the forest. One of the exceptions is if you have a valid recreation residence permit. This allows for fire only if you have an already established fire ring. Fire danger is very high and getting worse. Any briefings will be passed to Tract as necessary. Snow pack is way, way down, 19% of normal this year. We are in a 3 year draught condition. Be very, very careful with campfires.

On the news there is an El Nino potential this year. However, if we do, it won't benefit us this time of year. So don't count on this for the summer to change anything.

Asked about hazard trees, Mr. Thornburgh's response was to get in touch with Amy Reed. She will inspect, approve and mark all hazard trees that have been identified by cabin owners on their lot. Trees approved and marked by Amy are the cabin owners' responsibility to cut. She will be available for this, since it is important to us.

Bill Dillon reminded cabin owners about the hazard/dead tree list that he emails to the Forest Service. A list for this year has been prepared and will be sent this coming week. Forest Service will then know which lots have trees that need to be removed and how many trees per lot. Forest Service will spray paint the approved trees. This way Forest Service can handle hazard/dead trees all at once.

FOREST NEWS

Wrights Lake was hit hard by a bad wind storm around Thanksgiving time. One hundred to two hundred trees came down. This was a priority for the Forest Service. Many cabins were damaged, and his staff is dealing with many requests for repairs. The good news is that the Forest Service has made great progress, hopefully opening Wrights Lake campgrounds soon.

Burn days (yard burning) and campfire days are two different things. Yard burning has been canceled completely until end of fire danger season. Need to be extra careful with campfires this year. Take precautions and use a hose, fire extinguisher, buckets of water, and shovel.

HEADS UP INFORMATION

The water rights to Gerle Creek are controlled by the California State Water Board. Due to the severe draught, there is the possibility that the Tract may lose its use of Gerle Creek water for the season. This will not affect our well/drinking water. The water for the Tract's two system (drinking water/and fire hydrants) come from our well. Gerle Creek provided a backup for fire protection (the old system). However, the old system is in need of repair and not in operation. In lieu of the possibility of losing Gerle Creek water, Mr. Thornburgh recommended that the tract repair the old water system and fill the tank. However, Mr. Thornburgh was informed that due to the type of equipment needed for repair of that system and the current fire restrictions, we are not able to make those repairs at this time.

Last year the Board met with the Forest Service and discussed signs to be placed outside of the gate to help keep the road to the tract gate clear for vehicle passage. Mr. Thornburgh asked that Bill send him a reminder and he will have staff check into it.

Bill Dillon thanked Mr. Thornburgh for attending our meeting. There was a round of applause for Mr. Thornburgh and his family.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved/seconded by Boyd(21)/Holmes(33) and carried to adjourn the 2014 meeting. Have a wonderful time up here this year. We really appreciated that the Forest Service shared with us.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gina Asaro Busalacchi, Secretary
Gerle Creek Summer Home Tract

The Forest Service Fire crew was delayed due to a problem that needed to be tended to, so they arrived after the meeting was adjourned. Below, however, is the presentation provided by them.

PRESENTATION BY FIRE SERVICE

Richard Thornburgh introduced Ken Kumpe from the Fire Service.

FOREST NEWS

Echo Summit had a commemoration of a historical marker for the 1968 US Men's Olympic Track Team. They had a training facility at Echo Summit. The Forest Service carved out an oval tract for high elevation training for the Team in preparation for Summer Olympics in Mexico City. These men broke a couple of records that year and earned twelve gold medals as a team. Ken Kumpe was the linguistic chief for this event.

DRAUGHT

The Forest Service has a READY-SET-GO CAMPAIGN that helps get people out of the Forest in the event of a fire. You need to have an evacuation plan, know where you're going to go. Questions and answers are online about the Ready-Set-Go Campaign.

Think about your structure and what's around it. Trim up low hanging limbs, especially around structures (ladder effect). Mr. Kumpe did not see a problem cutting these low hanging limbs; however, if you have any questions call Amy.

Fire Service is at Level 5 for draught. What that means is high alert for any smoke. We are in Fire Restrictions in the Forest. State is also in a burn ban. The wind storm this past year was very scary. There is lots of fuel on the ground.

IF YOU CAN ABSOLUTELY NOT HAVE A CAMPFIRE, THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU NEED TO HAVE A CAMPFIRE, GERLE CREEK TRACT IS EXEMPT, BUT KEEP IN MIND THE WEATHER, WINDS.

SINCE GERLE CREEK TRACT IS A COMMUNITY, A CALIFORNIA CAMPFIRE PERMIT IS COVERED UNDER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.

DIMENSIONS OF FIRE RING

Under 4 feet is a campfire. Over 4 feet is considered yard burning and you will be in trouble.