

FBM Board Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2023 (5:00– 6:30 pm)
Hosted by Board President Ed Sylvester

Attendees

Ed Sylvester, Chip Wilder, Susan Sanders, Jeff Peach, Andrew Wilkinson, Mo Graber, and Susan Luhman

Ed called the meeting to order a 5:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

Ed Sylvester called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2023 board meeting and the 2023 annual meeting. Chip made the motion to accept the minutes as recorded. Susan Sanders seconded it and all approved.

Treasury Report

Chip presented the treasurer's report. The organization has \$6,634.25 in its checking account; there is \$5,203.63 in savings. The organization also has \$7,215.80 in a bank cd. This totals \$19,053.68 in assets. Expenses for this quarter were due to membership renewal (printing, envelopes, and stamps). The next large expense will be for the board of directors' liability insurance which is \$1,776. Chip will pay this in December. Susan Sanders made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Jeff seconded it. It was approved by all.

Reinstatement of the FBM 501(c)(3) Status

FBM is currently working on the organization's recertification of its nonprofit status.

Steering Committee Meeting Recap

Susan Sanders, Jeff Peach, Mo Graber, and Susan Luhman met on October 30th to discuss FBM's bylaws. The committee will meet again in December to discuss updating the bylaws. Any suggested changes will be presented to the board of directors at the next meeting.

Ed charged the committee with defining FBM goals for the next year. Future goals should include increasing our membership and offering more services such as the chipping program, green waste, and fire safety education.

Vote for Vice President of Communications

The bylaws call for a vice president of communications. Susan Sanders made a motion to nominate Mo Graber as the vice president of communications. Susan Luhman seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all.

Free Chipping Program/Green Waste

Susan Luhman gave an overview of the 2023 free chipping program. The program provided chipping services to 14 neighborhoods; 80 residences. Total cost was \$4,537.50.

Susan reported a lack of communication between the Fire Safe Council (FSC) and FBM. Getting approximate dates regarding when neighborhoods would be chipped was not forthcoming. This resulted in inability to convey this information to the neighborhood captains.

Currently FBM reimburses the FSC \$75.00 per hour. Chip recommended contacting a private chipping business to determine if FBM could afford to use another entity. Mo offered to research other chipping businesses.

Membership Update

Jeff reported the 2024 renewal membership letter process went very smoothly. FBM mailed approximately 650 letters. We did not use the nonprofit mailing service. The mailing committee met October 12th to organize letters and envelopes. A big thank you to Gale Peach for all her efforts to make the process more efficient.

Currently FBM has 234 renewed members. Last year at this time there were 10. Note, the 2023 renewal letters were mailed in late November. In 2023 FBM had 342 paid members.

Memorial Plaque for Chuck Staetz

To honor Chuck for all his years of service, the board wanted to install a plaque on the Save Our Historic Canal bench which overlooks the Lower Cascade Canal trail. Susan Sanders made a motion to allocate up to \$250 for a memorial plaque. Ed seconded the motion and all approved. Susan Sanders will contact All Season Awards to order a plaque.

Firewise Update

Jeff completed the hazard assessment report and submitted it to the National Fire Protection Association. Three hundred and seventy homes participated in the assessment; reporting 1.2 million dollars spent in fire safe activities

Jeff noted that Nevada County has around 100 firewise communities; more than any other county in the U.S.

Other Items

Ed is currently working with the county on improving local road conditions. Fire evacuations will be very difficult in many areas due to the poor condition of county roads. The government is providing state funds for infrastructure repairs. Has Nevada County received some of this funding, if so, how are these funds being used. Ed is following up on these questions.

Ed adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.

The next meeting as yet to be determined. Susan Sanders will send an email to obtain availability of January dates. -S