

Lane County Forestland Classification Public Hearing

October 3, 2016 – 7:50PM – 8:15 PM

Lane Community College – Hearing Minutes

Committee Members:

In attendance:

Sue Bowers (Chair) – At large Representative

Steve Cafferata – Eastern Lane Landowner Representative

Lauren Grand (Secretary) – OSU Extension Agent – Lane County

Lindsay Reaves – Western Lane Landowner Representative

Tom Soward – Oregon Department of Forestry Representative

Not in attendance:

Terry Ney – Chief, Lane Fire Authority, State Fire Marshal Representative

Meeting Called to order by Sue Bowers at 7:55 PM

- Meeting transferred to Tom Fields, meeting officer at 7:55PM
- Purpose of hearing is stated as well as agenda of the meeting
- Information about the testimony deadlines was presented to the community members in attendance.

Public Testimony – participants that signed up will be called up to the microphone to present. The time stamp for their recorded testimony is next to their name in parentheses.

1. Alan and Shirley Booth (03:32) – Mountain Gate subdivision – been there since 2008 – characteristic is suburban and built out so small pockets of trees, but basically suburban subdivision. It is not able to spread fire. To Alan, the logical boundary would be the outer boundary of the current subdivision. Has submitted a written testimony and picture with invitation for committee to visit.
2. Judy McElwee (05:24) – Mountain Gate Subdivision - 6199 Jade Ave – asks committee to look at tax lots instead – “we have hydrants and are within the city limits and are able to put out the fires there” - the mapping used by the committee is not very good and is quite old. Judy invites the committee to come out and take a look at the area.
3. Kevin McElwee (6:34) – Mountain Gate Subdivision - 6199 Jade Avenue – Kevin is a forester who appreciates the WUI and can understand the reasons that the committee uses aerial view to make classification decisions – understands process that were used within the 40 acre areas- However, their subdivision has a significant number of hydrants – Kevin and the other members of the subdivision have substantial costs in paying for fire protection from Springfield fire and rescue. The protection from them is substantial and

he encourages the committee to come look. The committee will see lots of cement. Kevin has 0.22 acres and only a couple of trees.

4. Jeff Rice (8:55) – 6174 Greystone Loop – Mountain Gate Subdivision – the maps are 2 years old and the area has completely changed – most of trees are gone and turned to lots- there are lots of fire breaks – yes, there was a fire that was put out by ODF – They already pay for Willamilane - there are a lot of lawns that are watered and the idea that we would cause a fire to spread to the forest is small. Jeff turned in a testimony that reiterates that the property is too developed and encourages the committee to drive through. Jeff testifies that there are areas to the east and west that are not classified that give more risk than the subdivisions trees which are only a few feet tall.
5. John Steele (11:11) - 34882 Spillway road, Cottage Grove – This is a regressive response to fire – there should be something included in the attempt to prevent fire. John’s property has a road on one side and a river on the other. He has the core of engineers as a neighbor. John’s property has fruit trees and he keeps clean defensible space. John understands that new developments have cisterns and we need to encourage people to be fire safe and taxing ahead is reverse of that. John testifies that in Europe there are hardly any fires at all. It behooves John to look at a state regulation where there is no opting out because it would be too cost prohibitive. There is no incentive plan. One acre = 17 acres is not constructive. The regulation is not looking at how landowners make an effort to put out fire. The problem is no longer canopy and embers starting home fire according to new research.
6. Richard Oldridge – left a written statement.

Tom Fields reports that he has read all names of community members that have signed up to testify. He ask the community if anyone who has signed up has been missed 8:08 PM

No Community members report that they have been missed.

Tom Fields opens the floor to those not signed up, but have decided to testify. 8:08 PM

Barbra Evans (15:01) - 75732 Booth Kelly Camp Rd- Barbra asks how there can be wildfire protection without fire protection in homes. Why the regulation is not aiding small town access to help develop volunteer fire departments – more info to landowners in that sense – That way instead of paying ODF, the money can go to us to have their own fire department to serve the community and area at large. You are saying that it’s not the loggers, but the loggers go fast on the road and it would show us that the community is getting better voice if asked if want service instead of just instilling it. The community still needs a plan to have a fire department to protect homes and land in community. All of Barbara’s community members are concerned and now we help one another. We put out our neighbors fires– it doesn’t help us to call the fire department because our neighbor had a house burn down and no one got there in time. Lots of people can’t afford this on top of other taxes. Barbara is disturbed that we are using and going through Lane County because they are making assessments that are going to eliminate us for people with more money to move out there. Barbra testifies, give us options for fire protection rather than cramming it down our throat.

Tom fields closes the testimony portion of the hearing at 8:13

Sue Bowers makes follow up comments:

- Offers more info to submit testimony.
- Next committee meeting location is changed to Wed, October 19th at 9am at the Eastern Lane ODF office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM