



PB NEWS: PB Board Meeting Decisions, Misc Notes, EPPOC Minutes, St. Patrick Party

Important information in this Pinebrook NEWS and it looks like rain and snow all next week; Good news!

A. Pinebrook Board Meeting Major Decisions 03/10/18

1. Thank you for responses to the Fish Planting Survey;

About 25% of the HOA membership was represented. The input was:

- . 55% for no fish, 25% for fewer fish planted later, 20% for full planting in May.
- . We did get (3) volunteers for a Fishing Derby.

Board in a split decision voted for the following:

- Plant fewer bigger fish if available for a July 28th Fishing Derby with the Movie Night in the evening. Make sure to Calendar this Event!
- After Labor Day on September 3rd, fishing will be allowed all day in designated fishing areas (not swimming docks or from any part of the beach).

2. Lake level to be raised by 6” to increase volume & depth.

If there are issues the level, can be easily lowered.

3. Security lights and cameras will be installed at strategic locations around the facility.

4. A “Camp Host” project is approved:

with estimated funding from our Capital Account. Goal is to have an onsite person in the May thru October timeframe for security, maintenance, and member support/check-in. The “Host” will be living on site with a base location in the back to the right of the maintenance shed. The “Host” is not a paid position, but the utilities for the trailer or RV are provided by Pinebrook.

B. Miscellaneous Items:

1. Welcome a new Pinebrook Member: Darren Polzal at Lot 320 on Evergreen Lane. Darren is from San Jose.
2. We are supporting “Nextdoor” membership and working to correct map errors in their system for Pinebrook. Keep sending Dale at pilgeram@sbcglobal.net your request to join and we will work through any connection issues and securing the right account enrolling.
3. Pinebrook needs members to volunteer to serve on the Board as well as committees. Many of the long term volunteers are moving on and we are challenged to keep things running and maintaining our recreational and social events and facilities.
4. A March 8 Town Hall meeting on the Murphys Drive Bridge outage just repeated the outlook of a couple of years if the repair is under FEMA approval and control for funding, but the county will look into the possibility of getting a fix earlier by just paying for it themselves. The safety issue of traffic moving through Pinebrook during the outage time are still being addressed without much support or action. A committee from BLS 14,15,16 is leading the effort.

C. EPPOC Minutes for March: Lots of important information here.

1. **Call to Order:** President Eric Davis called the meeting to order at 0930.
2. **Minutes:** Approved for February. Attendance was taken.
3. **Treasurers Report:** No change from last month. Our Treasurer was snowed in...
4. **Greater Arnold Business Association (GABA):** Bob Doten, President, reported

the best of news for Arnold and the general area. The economic machine of Arnold is growing. Young people are settling here. Real Estate is healthy. The website: www.CometoArnold.com is getting 3,000 hits per month. Arnold is competing well with Tahoe for property values and quality of living. Out of 3100 counties rated nationwide, Calaveras was rated 14th for scenery, climate, and outdoor activity! We have excellent schools with Bret Hart HS District rated 5th out of 375 in California comparing rates of graduation, low student to teacher ratios, and cost of living. Calaveras is a good place to live and raise a family.

- a. **Electric Cars:** GABA is working with Tesla Motors to provide one or more charging stations that would be free to the public. We have details to be worked out, but we are aiming for installation by mid-summer. This will encourage electric cars from the Bay Area to drive the distance to visit Arnold and the surrounding natural resources of our area.
 - b. **Meet the CANDIDATES:** In support of the upcoming elections, GABA is sponsoring a **Candidate Meeting on April 3rd** at Sequoia Woods. This meeting is from 6 pm to 9pm with an informal chat time following to become familiar the candidates. Reception starts at 5:00pm so be sure to calendar this event. You will be able to submit questions for consideration by the monitor to be used in the exchange. There will be a formal Q&A panel for the sheriff and district 3 supervisor candidates; details will be advertised in ThePineTree.net.
 - c. **Summer Concerts:** GABA has chosen not to provide free Concerts as in the past. These concerts have been competition to the many Concerts and musicals provided by wineries and restaurants for a fee. In fairness, the free concerts have been cancelled and the Cedar Creek location is currently for sale and not available for free or affordable events.
 - d. **Independence Parade:** The parade will be held on July 7th and the Arnold Car Show on July 21st but at White Pines Park, not in Cedar Center.
5. **Sheriff:** Deputy Joel Burnett reported that long time fugitive Jimmy Blake Terry is still at large. Sheriff Rick Di Basilio added that Terry was almost captured in Tuolumne County, but eluded capture by fleeing from a stolen car leaving a gun behind. The \$5,000 reward is still active.
6. **Special Topic:** Eric Davis raised the question of whether EPPOC can report on Community activities of a political nature. It was communicated that EPPOC would report on the meeting events while maintaining a neutral position.
7. **CCWD:** Bertha Underhill, District 3 Supervisor, reported:
- a. CCWD has maintained Diesel Power Generators in the event of failure of hydroelectric power. These diesels must be powered occasionally to keep the generators operative.
 - b. **Water Quality Report:** As required by July 1st, the report will verify that the water quality originating from the Stanislaus River to Ebbetts Pass residents is excellent.
 - c. **Joel Metzger**, Public Information Officer (PIO), further reported in detail:
 - 1) Water Quality is Excellent as no Arsenic can be detected as in valley water.
 - 2) Required lead testing of school water shows no measurable lead.
 - 3) Budget Recommendation is in a draft form to be read and approved by the CCWD board according to Prop 218 in keeping all rate increases transparent. It is anticipated that bimonthly water rates will increase modestly (\$2 per billing cycle) in a stepwise manner over the next 5 years. However, there will be no "Free" 1,000 cu ft of water bimonthly. The water rates will be tiered depending on usage with the first 1,000 cu ft being billed at \$1.09 per 100 cu ft. The water connection fee will remain at \$6K for residences. Sewer rates will increase at about \$7 to \$8 bimonthly over the next 5 years. All rate increases are intended to be fair to private as well as commercial and also to the casual user of say a second-home owner. The rate increases will begin in the July 15, 2018 billing. Any questions related to water or sewer rates or rate increases can be directed to: Joel Metzger, 209-754-3123, joelm@ccwd.org

8. **Council of Governments (COG) Report:** Tim Muetterties could not elaborate as the monthly meeting was scheduled for that evening. Any developments would be reported in next month's EPPOC.
9. **Fire Commissioner:** Tom Sullivan told of a recent fire in Forest Meadows caused by a Space Heater powered through an under-rated extension cord. He cautioned to never use an electric heater connected to an extension cord.
10. **Arnold Rim Trail:** Steve Lauterbach encouraged all those interested to look at the on-line activities page of www.ArnoldRimTrail.org. All scheduled events including guided hikes and work days are presented. Signing on invites an email address for future contact and status. He noted that all emails are protected and not shared.
11. **Board of Supervisors:** Supervisor Mike Oliveira reported on several topics. He introduced two special Guests to further discuss these topics: Guests and their contact information:

Michelle Patterson, OES Director, (office) 209-754-6676: mpatterson@co.calaveras.ca.us

Rick Di Basilio, County Sheriff, (office) 209-754-6753; rdibasilio@co.calaveras.ca.us

- a. **Michelle Patterson, Office of Emergency Services (OES)** is the Director of a new county function to provide coordination of federal, state, and county organizations for relief or aid when needed due to any natural disaster.
 - 1) **Winter Storms:** Last year experienced severe road damage preventing access to some areas and prohibiting viable evacuation routes when needed. This was THE example of chaos among the many levels of government.
 - 2) **Tree Mortality:** A new beetle is now attacking White Firs and Cedar trees are dying from blight. As reported last month, TSS Consultants (look for the banner across Hwy 4) have been serving to remove dead trees that might possibly block County roadways. Over 900 Request of Entry (ROE) have been sent out. Many of those property owners have not responded thus preventing free tree removal for those properties.
 - 3) **Butte Fire:** The fire of 2015 was discussed as the cause and best example for the need for the OES. Coordination during the fire fighting and later the relief-aid suffered badly among the many organizations trying to do their job. Lives could have been lost. The recovery could have been faster and easier.
 - 4) **New Media:** Everyone is encouraged to have their phones registered for "Code Red" alerts. Also, the county is encouraging participation on Facebook called "Nextdoor". This provides a neighborhood alert feature on-line for real-time information. This can be added as "Nextdoor: Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services". Pinebrook has been using this feature for some time for their news network.
 - 5) **Evacuation Route Signs** were brought up as a possible task for OES. And coordinating the activities to provide adequate evacuation routes to at least get to Hwy 4. Some HOAs have limited access due to poor roads or too many cars or both. From there, the Murphys Stoplight, which served to backup evacuating cars on the highway from the stoplight to Arnold was discussed. A promise was made that next time, someone (?) would be directing traffic at that stoplight.
 - 6) **Future Media:** Since information is so necessary in an emergency, many suggestions were made. An AM Radio broadcast was suggested similar to existing AM1610. A possible radio tower is being investigated for White Pines that could serve as an ultimate solution in that regard.
 - 7) **Fire Breaks:** Coordination again is needed to build and maintain new fire breaks and to make effective Evacuation routes. SPI was reported to be very helpful.

B. Sheriff Rick Di Basilio, Sheriff of Calaveras County, spoke many issues, including:

- 1) **Evacuation** failure of the Murphys Stoplight will be fixed next time by having a traffic officer direct traffic at that intersection.
- 2) **Marijuana:** The complete ban of commercial growing of Cannabis will be enforced beginning June 10. The growing of up to 6 plants will be allowed as all provisions of

Proposition 64 will be enforced. Federal prohibitions are not enforceable by State or County law enforcement.

- 3) Man Power: Two new deputies can be added by July. However, there is currently an overtime problem. The heavier workload is forced on some deputies as Over Time is voluntary. Such stresses in addition to attractive higher pay, shorter hours allowed by other counties makes keeping an effective staffing difficult.
- 4) School Protection: The prospect of arming teachers as a response to the recent hysteria is not supportable. Instead, an armed School Response Officer (SRO) has been assigned to the schools. As the SRO is allowed to rotate among the schools, the deterrent remains effective to a potential shooter. Resources for addressing Mental Health are limited by the Grant money provisions. The real cause for school shootings is understood to be the mental health of random and rare individuals.

12. **Adjournment:** President Davis called it a day.

Robert Bragg, EPPOC Secretary

D. Pinebrook St Patrick's Day Party

About 35 Pinebrook Members got together last Saturday night for a lively evening of conversation, contests, and low-key gambling.

- . The Contests featured a Cheese Tasting Event with Molly Pilgeram, Bette & Mike Brashear, and Carol & Norm Rector taking home the prizes.
- . The Irish Stew Contest provided some "themed concoctions" that were excellent. Nancy Peterson, Bette Brashear, and Brian Musgrave ran away with best of show honors and prizes.
- . The guys took charge in the gambling contests with Glen Lamb and Brian Musgrave leaving with the heavy load of winnings. Lots of fun with good intention threats of revenge.