

SIERRA FREEPACKERS MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2018

Meeting called to order by President Cathy Miller at 6:32 p.m. in the Oakhurst Library.

Minutes: Motion to approve the September minutes as presented made by Mary; seconded by Cathy. Minutes approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Laurie absent but Cathy reported the unit made over \$700 at the recent tack sale; and there is still a trailer load of tack left! Cathy to take leftover tack to B & B Auction in Madera the first Saturday in November.

Membership: Laurie absent but Mary reminded members that memberships have expired and encouraged them to renew. Denise recently attended the State meeting and reported that Chip said state wide memberships are down; currently at 2162 voting members (down from over 4000 historically). The state of Washington has seen increased membership; they have information on how to get and keep members which can be accessed via the BCHA website. Once on BCHA, use password BCHA2016.

Education: Denise attended the recent State meeting and reported on topics discussed there: Unit and Individual awards in January; Education grant applications are due by March 1; changes to youth programs due to insurance reasons. For more details on these topics see Denise. Mary mentioned perhaps we should be focusing on local 4-H programs as an avenue to reach youth and bring our program to their attention. Also Boy and Girl Scouts, programs at Fresno State, etc.

Public Lands: Bob James absent. From the State meeting: HR 1394 (Bikes on Trails); no action currently but there is a concern the bill will be attached as a rider on other legislation that would be likely to pass; so we need to keep our eye on it. Additionally, BCHC is watching HR 6510: Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (See Denise for info); also Chip reported on PCTA: it was the worst year ever on that trail; the first 100 miles of that trail are totally trashed.

Old Business:

1. Public Lands Day: Unit participation at Hensley Lake went well; trash was picked up and some trimming was done. Mary received a nice thank you letter which she shared with the unit.
2. Tack Sale: As previously mentioned, we did well making several hundred dollars at True Value; remaining tack to be sold at B & B. A heartfelt thank you to all who donated tack to the unit for this fundraiser.
3. State Meeting: Denise reported the Officer Education Training (formerly provided by SJS and Ted) will be provided by the Kern-Sierra unit; but will still be in January. BCHC was very happy with Intern Kristianne Morrison; get Insurance Day requests in early; Youth policy: mandatory background checks and fingerprinting/scan required for overnight youth programs without parents; Saw Policy: proposed reimbursement to trainers for travel expenses, if you call in a trainer to train your group you will need to reimburse those expenses. John and Dave are certified and available to provide training.

New Business:

1. AHRP Work Day: Planned for October 20 at 9:00 a.m. Work to include flagging and trimming. Lock code is 42-64. Bring horses and lunch. Cathy to bring pack horse and chain saw. Stickers

for trail intersection signs are available and will be used if needed.

2. French Trail/Other projects: There was a discussion of scope of work due to recent wind issues and the numbers of downed trees and safety. Mary proposed a recon without horses to figure out staging and such. Proposed Monday, October 22. Email to go out.
3. Addition: The kiosk at Fish Camp needs repair; the cork board warped and posts have fallen.
4. Addition: YLP is hosting it's Open House from 10-2 on December 8; we are invited to set up our brag booth.
5. Addition: Christmas Party is fast approaching... December 9 here at the library...
6. Addition: Gloria wants an additional work day planned for AHRP; planned for November 17 at 10:00; plan on more trail work.
7. Addition: Mary reported her article for grant work at Spring Cove was published in the recent BCHA newsletter.
8. Addition: Rendezvous Raffle tickets are available! This year's raffle includes a beautiful quilt, \$500 gift card for Bass Pro Shop, and a Pack Saddle!

General Discussion/Announcements:

Patricia reported trash trash trash at Gooseberry Flats; if anyone is in the area please lend a hand and pick it up.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 20, at 6:30 p.m. the Oakhurst Library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m; motioned by Cathy, seconded by Mary.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Seslowe