

EPPOC Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 9:30-11:30 am

This is the link to the Zoom video of this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/SmCJYfAqiqh8WLhCnBr\\_KwcSMVI4TLn3AOI8eL-Ejj5lGjrevcsFHiMPB-UqVnog.fyMWma8E0wh0XCmS](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/SmCJYfAqiqh8WLhCnBr_KwcSMVI4TLn3AOI8eL-Ejj5lGjrevcsFHiMPB-UqVnog.fyMWma8E0wh0XCmS)

Passcode: ari08we#

If you wish to watch, I *highly* recommend downloading the video to your computer rather than watching in a browser window.

- December 2023 minutes approved as written.

- Speaker for this month:

Calaveras County Public Health Department shares results of Calaveras Healthy Assessment survey. Evita introduced Waqqas who provided the report that was based on a survey of over 500 Calaveras residents. Identified issues are difficulty in obtaining health care, traveling for appointments, and affordability; cost of housing; social isolation; and chronic medical conditions. Also, the lack of sidewalks for walking in the communities was identified as an issue. A full report of the feedback will be published.

Reports:

- EPPOC Treasurer's Report – Laura Baughman – Laura reported that she has mailed out the dues requests to the HOAs.
- EPPOC Chairperson's Report – Eric Davis  
Eric proposed that in the future that EPPOC will now include HOAs from the Murphys area. Hearing no objection, EPPOC will now include Murphys. This makes sense because District 3 geography has changed since EPPOC was formed and now includes Murphys. The Fieldstone Owners Association in Murphys is the first member to join EPPOC with President Jeff Muscatine participating in the EPPOC meetings. Welcome aboard!
- District 3 Board of Supervisors – Martin Huberty – Bill Cooper is going to lead the Berm Buddies, the group that Martin has organized to help knock down snow berms for those who are on fixed incomes and need help with berms in the Arnold area. CJ Stevens will help with shoveling. Martin mentioned that the extra drivers have helped with snow removal this year. The Short-Term Rental Ordinance is still being drafted.
- Calaveras County Public Works – Monica Remus – Monica appreciates that Martin is bringing the Berm Buddies to fruition. Last week fifty trees that impacted the County roads right-of-way were removed. If the citizenry sees

any compromise of the integrity of a road, a blocked culvert or other issue to please call Public Works or file the report on the website:

[https://iframe.publicstuff.com/#?client\\_id=1000177](https://iframe.publicstuff.com/#?client_id=1000177)

- Ebbetts Pass Fire District – Chief Mike Johnson – Mike explained that Measure A is a citizen’s initiative that would raise 1% sale tax that would go to the local fire agencies. It must go 70% to staffing and 30% to equipment. Most of the funding would be divided between each of the nine fire districts including Ebbetts Pass. The funding goes directly to the agencies, not funneled through any government agency. This Measure would help the smaller agencies particularly. If this Measure passed, Ebbetts Pass would use the money apportioned to them probably to staff another person at the station 3 in Hathaway Pines. The recent large windstorm only knocked down one tree in our district that interrupted power for a small number of customers. Wildfire Community Awareness Day will be May 4<sup>th</sup> at Independence Hall. More information is included at the bottom of these minutes.
- CalFire – Dennis Lange – Dennis had a scheduling conflict, so he sent this note. The Battalion has started work on the Ellis Vegetation Treatment Program in Avery with the fire personnel working out of the Murphys Fire Station. Also, Dennis reminds us to burn our piles and yard waste when the weather permits.
- Sheriff’s Department & CHP – Joshua Wilkinson (CHP) – No report.
- CCWD –Bertha Underhill & Michael Minkler – no report.
- CalWaste – Jillian Goss – Fortunate not much snow so drivers can provide timely service without having to send delay notices. When snow has occurred, the County has been doing a great job clearing the roads so trash pickup can continue on schedule.
- County Office of Emergency Services – Bajjit Singh – no report.
- Calaveras Public Health – Evita Olson – Speaker of the Month this month.
- California Big Trees State Park – Heather Reith – hazard tree removal program going well. Pile burning continues in West Moran. The South Grove burn is scheduled for the Fall in conjunction with CalFire. Heather asked that we remind our HOAs that if we should clean up after ourselves visiting the Park and pack out what we bring in.
- Calaveras Big Trees Association (CBTA) – Vida Kenk – 250,000 visitors to the Park in 2023. Park is leading tourist attraction in Calaveras County. Vida said that the long-time warming hut which was closed was much loved, so this year CBTA has beta-tested opening Jack Knight Hall for hot drinks and snacks. Really well received. 4,000 visitors! Paul Prescott (President of CBTA) donated time at Jack Knight Hall and said it was a wonderful experience for everyone involved. Re-opening the warming hut in the future would require perhaps a million dollars to bring it up to code. So for now

Jack Knight Hall will be opened on a limited basis. Smith Road closed to vehicles for the Winter. Fiftieth anniversary of the founding of CBTA this year. Additional information from Vida is at the bottom of these minutes.

- Great Arnold Business Association – Linda Sapien – no report
  - Arnold Rim Trail Association– Steve Lauterbach – Steve reported that Captain Sturm of the Calaveras Sheriff’s Department arranged a meeting with Calaveras District of the National Forest and Arnold Rim Trail Association to discuss the recent death in the Interface. Captain Sturm is the leader of Calaveras Search and Rescue. He presented an in-depth Power Point about the search effort. Following the meeting he developed an action plan for each entity to reduce the chance of another lost hiker. Steve also showed pictures of the new section of trail that was completed in 2023 by the California Conservation Corp.
- Open Forum: What’s on your mind that is not on the agenda? (*Try to keep it to 4 minutes.*)
    - Steve said that traditionally each HOA Board elected a person to represent their HOA at EPPOC. During Covid this lapsed. Steve is going to work with HOA’s to re-establish this tradition.
    - Laura asked about the donations we usually make at the end of the year. Eric proposes that we wait until the end of 2024 so we have enough funds to make a substantial meaningful contribution.
    - Clint Jodie introduced himself as the new General Manager of Lake Mont Pines.
  - Adjournment: 11:30 am (approximately)

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Lauterbach  
EPPOC Secretary

#### EPPOC Feb. 2024 CBTA Report by Vida Kenk

- 1. The total number of park visitors in 2023 was nearly a quarter of a million. This summer DPR volunteers guided 860 visitors through the North Grove and talked to 64,750 people. Our District Supervisor, Martin Huberty, reported to CBTA last week that the park continues to be the leading tourist attraction in Calaveras County, bringing business that is crucial for our local economy.**
- 2. Highly successful “Warming Hall” held in Jack Knight Hall for four days between Christmas and New Year, hosting nearly 4000 visitors. Paul Prescott (president of CBTA) described the event: Fire in**

the fireplace, visitors from all over the country and other parts of the world, and a good time had by all participants!

3. Trail conditions vary greatly since the weather has been so variable. Ask your visitors to check the weather conditions and chain requirements. Since the first snowfall, the only campsites available are NG 1 to 11 on first-come basis. The Smith parkway is closed to vehicles since early December. Sledding only in designated areas such as the closed Parkway road and the space between the parking lot and Parkway road.

4. New Docent Orientation is 3/23 & 3/24 with various trainings after. Register here: [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=1145](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1145) to volunteer. Our first event will be participating in Murphys Irish days, parade and booth. We will be doing something for Earth Day.

5. Ca. Naturalist Class is now taking registration from the public; initial registration in January was for park docents and CBTA members. The class is already half full (limited to 24). A flyer about this is attached.

7. CBTA seminars already scheduled for Spring and Fall, including a return of John Muir Laws workshop all day at the beginning of May, which requires advance registration. Other CBTA seminars are free and open to docents and the public (park entrance fee). See attached list of 2024 Seminars and Events.

8. This year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of CBTA. Jeff Price, the original founding ranger, is helping us to plan a celebration on Sept. 28! More details as they develop.

## Wildfire Community Awareness Day, May 4th

Wildfire Community Awareness Day is coming up again for 2024! This year the event lands on May 4<sup>th</sup>, the first Saturday of May and will be held at Independence Hall. I spoke with Martha Rubin today and she is taking point on the event this year, while she has touched base with Laura Baughman who led last year's event I thought this email would help get her introduced to all of you. She is planning to email you all to set up a planning meeting in the near future as well as attending an EPPOC Meeting to get the word out for the event, this seems very critical since each HOA who is an accredited Firewise community requires an annual meeting and this satisfies that requirement. Here is a rough outline of what is loosely proposed currently with more to be discussed and defined with upcoming planning meetings led by Martha:

**May 4, 2024, 0900 Independence Hall**

- **0900-0930 Networking**
- **0930 Welcome by Martha**
- **0935 Fire Agency Update: Cal FIRE, EPFD, and USFS provide a short 5-7 minute update on their status**
- **1000-1015 Calaveras OES: Alert sign-up procedure and Know your zone (Zone Haven)**
- **1015-1030 Sheriff's Office / Fire Agencies: Evacuation Process**
- **1030-1045 Martha is working on a guest speaker / topic.**
- **1045 End presentations - Direct attendees to meet the various booths set up**
- **1100-1200 Cal Waste to BBQ again???**
- **1200 Conclude our event**

**Booth(s)**

- **Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services: Alert sign up on site, know your zone, and evacuation signs for your address sign.**
- **EPFD: Unimproved Lot / agency information**
- **Cal FIRE: Defensible Space, Burn Permits and agency information.**
- **Sheriff's Office: Agency information**
- **USFS: Projects / Agency Information**
- **Lot Cleaners: Various lot cleaner booths**
- **Cal Waste:**
- **Any other participants you can think of??**

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