

Gold Country Trails Council  
Minutes of the General Meeting  
January 8, 2013

Golden Empire Grange  
11363 Grange Court, Grass Valley

The general membership meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:10.

Members present included:

President Helen Harvey

Vice President: Melissa Ribley

Treasurer: Kathie Southgate

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Board Members: Jeff Foltz, Don Soto, Vicki Testa

Members: Willie Brusin (Forest Service Liaison), Mary Johnson (Membership Chair)

Absent: Teri Personeni (Past President)

President Helen Harvey welcomed visitors and new members and asked them to stand and introduce themselves. She also welcomed new board member Don Soto to the board.

Helen inquired about approval of the December minutes. Secretary Karen Schwartz responded that the minutes of the board meeting had been revised and distributed to the board.

Helen asked Treasurer Kathy Southgate to report on the status of GCTC finances. Kathy provided a detailed report dated 1/08/13 and announced that the current working balance is \$15,323.87. Kathy reported that about 120 membership renewals have been received. She estimated that the recent dues increase had added about \$500.00 in revenues.

Old Business:

Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin reviewed his report dated 12/11/2012, which he had covered at the executive board meeting in December, including the following items:

Bowman Road Parking: The snow park cannot be used for summer parking. We need to contact the Bear-Yuba Land Trust to determine if the parking area is in the portion of land which will be eventually deeded to them.

Pioneer Trail: The NEPA report for the relocation of the Pioneer Trail section near the Washington Overlook is expected to be completed in the Spring, 2013. Another Tahoe National Forrest project is being sought by Joe Chavez in the Cable Trail area to facilitate the sharing of the cost of the Cable Trail NEPA report. The maintenance of the Pioneer Trail is shared by Bicyclists of Nevada County, which covers the part of the trail extending from 5-Mile House to Skillman Campground, and GCTC, which focuses on the trail between Skillman to Bear Valley.

Skillman Campground: Willie and Sue Brusin and Melissa and Robert Ribley met recently with Tahoe National Forest representatives to discuss various changes proposed for the campground. These include reconfiguring the 16 individual campsites to protect large trees, eliminating the \$100.00 group camp area, adding three new single pit toilets, sinking a new well to provide potable water, installing high lines rather than more corrals, improving manure control, limiting the Poker Ride to 60 trailers, and asking the California Land Management to provide an onsite host during 2013. In addition, a free day use parking area will be created outside the gate, the Upper Burlington Road log landing will be expanded to provide overflow parking, and pull outs will be created on various parts of the Hallelujah Trail and the Pioneer Trail going down to Bear Valley to facilitate two way traffic. The timeline for these improvements is projected to be two to three years.

Old Business:

Helen reminded members to renew their memberships.

Helen thanked Sandy Ruggiero for taking over the update of the membership directory.

New Business:

Helen announced that more volunteers are needed for the telephone tree committee.

Helen asked for a volunteer to serve as publicity chairperson.

Helen reviewed in detail the work days and rides scheduled on the tentative calendar of events planned for 2013 (see attached calendar) and reminded everyone that the full GCTC activities calendar for 2013 is available in the newsletter and on the website. She and Willie Brusin asked questions about specific trail work projects.

Helen asked for any questions or announcements. In response to a question, she confirmed that there will be no Porta Potty at Empire Mine.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 for refreshments, followed by a presentation by GCTC member Valerie Logsdon, Attorney at Law. Her topic was What Every Horse Owner Needs From an Estate Planning Perspective.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary