

October 20th 2015 meeting notes.

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm

Attendance: 6 members, 2 associate members

1. Board reports were given.
2. Community strategic planning: Chas led a SWOT analysis to examine the Gales Creek Community and the Gales Creek Chamber of Commerce. The following are strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified by the attendees:

Strengths:

Sense of community

Leadership team

Heritage - Joyce Sauber

Local Newspaper

Community Connections/Social Capital

Existing Recreational Opportunities

Acclaimed local businesses (tree farm)

Weaknesses:

Lack of venue for meeting and connecting with new residents

Attendance at local meetings/events

Lack of new volunteers

Lack of technical access

Geography

Signage

Awareness of local businesses

Opportunities:

Grassroots nature

Growing population

Local news media

Farm to fork movement

Agritourism

Growing internet presence

Using real estate websites like Zillow to know where and when new neighbors move in to create a Welcome Committee.

Recreational opportunities

Threats:

Absorption by neighboring towns

Lack of public utilities, specifically water and natural gas

growing transient and homeless population, with increased vandalization and burglary

Growing Population

Lack of consideration by public officials, such as the school board.

Natural Disasters

The second part of the meeting focused on dreams, projects and ideas for the community and the Chamber of Commerce. The following “pipe dreams” were identified by attendees:

Gales Creek Elementary reopened as a school for local children.

Quality and reliable internet access for the area

School zone sign with safety features

Safer junction with a turn lane at the junction of highway 6 and 8

Garbage Collection at Dormans pond

Community Christmas Tree

Incorporation

Increased Revenue for local businesses

Lodging for tourists and visitors to the region

Gales Creek Music Festival

‘Welcome to Gales Creek’ sign

Welcome Committee

Tourism/business sign

Tool lending library

Strawberry Festival Expansion

Local Water System

Strawberry Statue

Ride Connection Actually working

“Day in the country” event

Garden Tour

Bike Lanes

Local Park

Expanded Quilt Block Trail