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 vandalism 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