

WFNA General Meeting Minutes September 10, 2019, Kulshan Middle School

Board members:

Stephen Dillon- President
Claudia Oates - Treasurer
Amanda Cook - Secretary
Jenny Baker-Couch- MNAC
Representative

Todd Luther - Vice President
Dave Ahrenholz - Director
MNAC Alternate - Vacant
Director - Vacant

1. Call to order at 7:04 PM, 18 attendees present.

2. Our first speaker was Greg Hope, he is the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Management. He talked to us about Map Your Neighborhood. If a disaster strikes and first responders are unable to respond, we are encouraged to be the first responders to the disaster. This program has been around since 1999. Here are some key tips he parted with us.
 - Map Your Neighborhood is a structured 1.5 hour gathering for your immediate neighborhood of about a city block size. Together everyone will follow the steps outlined in the program to identify resources within your close network of neighbors in case of a disaster.
 - Some examples of items that might be listed as a resource available to your immediate surrounds could be generators, chain saws, extra food, blankets, medical training, skill sets and experiences.
 - At the end of the meeting each household will walk away with a copy of the information to keep within your specific neighborhood
 - Greg Hope's team will provide the group with all the necessary tools needed to complete the meeting which will take about an hour and a half
 - People will learn where their utilities and shut offs are and learn how to turn theirs off in an emergency
 - The goal of this program is to allow first responders to drive by and attend those areas that need help greater than your own
 - Office of Emergency Management can be reached at oem@cob.org. Greg will ask how many houses will be present and bring booklets for every house. He can help facilitate the meeting or stand back and be a resource for questions.

3. John Knutson from the Bellingham Police Department came to speak, he is our newest neighborhood officer to replace Eric Osterkamp
 - Officer Knutson is available to ask questions or share concerns
 - He is willing to provide a presentation to our group, if we have ideas we can reach out to him or to Stephen Dillion
 - For safety, he reminded everyone to keep the lights on your property, keep landscape away from windows and lock your doors
 - Bellingham Neighbors Together will be reinstated soon. To know more please visit cob.org/police
 - He reminded everyone to please avoid giving cash to panhandlers, if you

wish to give, please give to charities or organizations that will help those in need

4. New business:
 - Xenia Street sub division is proceeding, please get your written comment to Kathy Bell at the City of Bellingham by the 20th of September.
 - Applications are due in February 2020 for the newest round of grant money for a neighborhood project. If you have ideas of what you would like to see done within Whatcom Falls Neighborhood, please reach out to Stephen and a committee can be formed

5. Claudia gave us the Treasurer report
 - Our account balance has \$98.50
 - Neighborhood picnic was successful! Thank you everyone who came and provided food for the potluck

6. Open house Sept 19th 6:30-8:30pm for new open recreation space will be held at Bloedel Donovan

7. Next meeting is November 12th, 2019

8. Local resources can be found at the following:
 - Litter Control Officer (360) 778-8623
 - Social: www.nextdoor.com
 - On the Web: www.whatcomfallsneighborhood.org
 - In the City: www.cob.org
 - Our neighborhood plan:
<http://www.cob.org/documents/planning/neighborhoods/whatcom-falls.pdf>

Meeting adjourned at 8:29PM

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Cook, Secretary