

## **FIRE PROTECTION TASK FORCE**

**May 28, 2015**

### **Call to Order:**

Gay Dunne called the Thursday, May 28, 2015, meeting of the Fire Protection Task Force to order at 6:10 PM at the Logan Fire House.

### **Attendance:**

PRESENT: Tim Schreffler, Fire Department Chief

Gay Dunne, Bellefonte Borough Council member

Brian Walker, Bellefonte Borough Council member

Walt Schneider, Code enforcement officer/Logan Fire Company chief

Karen Harvey, Bellefonte Borough Council member

Randall Brachbill, Bellefonte Borough Council member

Don Holderman, staff

ABSENT: Tom Mensch, Logan Fire Company

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Mr Brachbill made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2015, meeting with the correction of Ms. Dunne for Ms. Dainty under **II.F.** Pg. 4. His motion was seconded by Mr. Schreffler and was approved unanimously.

### **Welcome to Brian Walker:**

Brian Walker, who sits on Borough Council, is a new member of the Task Force. We welcome him and his expertise as an architectural engineer in fire technology and construction codes.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

**A. Education:** (Walt Schneider) Efforts continue to be focused on acquisition of the Fire Safety Trailer. RFP documents are being refined while working closely with Bullex, the manufacturer that can implement superior technology in the trailer design. A commercial kitchen will make up about 1/3 of the trailer.

Summer staff are being used to develop curriculum for the next academic year.

(Tim Schreffler) Supelco's "Bring Your Child to Work Day" was wildly successful and should be spread out to other businesses within the Borough and planned more often than yearly. Tim will be speaking to the Chamber of Commerce at its September luncheon. He urges a more vigorous education initiative to plan programming for all ages.

(Walt Schneider) Logan Company is exploring establishment of an Explorer Post with the Boy Scouts at the Fire House as a basis for a career track.

- B. Manpower/Marketing :** (Karen Harvey) S.B. 299, which would permit municipalities to waive local taxes for active volunteer firefighters and emergency responders, was referred out of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for a vote on 6/2. We should support this legislation and follow its course.

The idea of partnering with CPI to recruit volunteer firefighters for Bellefonte's Fire Department by advertising at local multiplex films (as Alpha Fire Company has done) was discussed. Tim Schreffler will explore this with CPI. Karen Harvey will quiz Steve Bair on the Alphas' experience with their ads. Randy Brachbill will discuss the use of community service requirements for graduation as another stepping stone to attract new fire department volunteers.

- C. Historic Preservation:** (Gay Dunne) The latest criteria draft for ranking properties for sprinkler assistance from the committee's 5/14 meeting was presented and discussed. In this draft the key categories, which will be weighted later, are financial need, fire safety risk, and community significance, which is based on durability, utility, and beauty. Task Force members offered comments on the draft for consideration at the committee's 6/10 meeting.

(Walt Schneider) The Bellefonte Mews project including the Cadillac Building is in its second round of discussions in the permit application process. Sprinklers are required under state regs in any new construction.

- D. Funding:** (Don Holderman) Vana Dainty is planning to submit an application for a DCED grant under the Keystone Community Program sometime after 7/1/15. In preparation for the application an assistance award program needs to be created – loan vs. grant, eligibility criteria dovetailing with the building ranking described above. We questioned whether prevailing wage regulations would apply to an assistance program using DCED funds. If so, the number of properties served would be reduced or assistance to each property would be limited to less than \$25,000. (It was later confirmed that prevailing wage regs would apply to work done under the grant.)

The sprinkler assistance subcommittee was initiated to develop an assistance program. Brian Walker and Randy Brachbill will develop the committee and begin work on the program.

- E. Next meeting:** Thursday, July 23, 2015 at 6 PM

- F. Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM

