

Minutes from Meeting of NPS—SEKI & Wilsonia
December 13, 2013
Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, Visalia, CA

Introductions—Those present at meeting were Christine Smith and Ned Kelleher from SEKI, Dick Moss, Neal Mixter and Susan Doyle representing Wilsonia Village, Inc, Dutch Scholten (phone) and Drew Sorensen representing Wilsonia Historic District Trust, and Gus Collin as at-large member. Scott Edgerly representing the Masonic Tract was unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05.

Wilsonia's Representation and Process

Gus received two emails stating that this Wilsonia group did not represent them. We agree that our authority is what our respective groups give us. Decisions must be approved by our boards. We will continue to communicate through the Wilsonia Times. Neal told us that the newsletter gets to all property owners in Wilsonia. He mails 180 paper copies and 220-250 email versions. WVI also has a website and Facebook page for communication. The NPS attends the four summer meetings and one winter meeting of WVI.

Initial Goals of NPS-SEKI

The NPS is serious about wanting to improve communication with Wilsonia and are open to working on a document regarding this. The NPS agreed to the group's request to meet twice in Wilsonia this coming summer on weekends, but requested to avoid holiday weekends. Format was discussed and it was suggested that one meeting be formal, and one informal. The NPS will get these prospective dates to Neal in time for the WVI winter meeting on February 8, 2014.

Building Permits

Discussion was held around the suggestion that the Wilsonia Community develop Architectural Guidelines for use in designing building projects and to include the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in their development. NPS agrees that Wilsonia should be the author of this document; the NPS offered to assist with formatting it to make it easily understood by SHPO and NPS staff. These Guidelines would be a tool for home owners to use in working with the NPS and SHPO to approve projects more quickly. The document should be user-friendly and intuitive. We should look at the Secretary of the Interior Guidelines and use this document and incorporate Wilsonia special standards. We also discussed looking at the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as well as the General Management Plan (2007). Tulare County also has historic building codes, as does California. The key is "No Adverse

Effects.” Dutch has agreed to begin work on this project. Mark Beason is the NPS contact in the SHPO office. The more we keep SHPO in the loop, the better.

What steps does a Wilsonia owner follow? Plans go to NPS. NPS vets the plans with various committees. When the plans are approved by NPS, they go to SHPO. We discussed the differences between what cabin owners are submitting plans for. Is it a new cabin? A remodel of an existing cabin? Adding on? Replacing rotting material? The question was asked if all of these scenarios require a permit? Maybe not. If you need a County of Tulare permit, then you will also need NPS approval for the project. Contact Christine Smith at the NPS before submitting plans to the county. Photographs are excellent to send. Dutch commented that maybe a questionnaire should be designed with a checklist. NPS has a Project Proposal Form that we may want to look at. Mineral King has something similar to this, and Christine is going to mail this electronically to the Wilsonia committee members.

Preserve Wilsonia in perpetuity

NPS has taken a step in this direction with language in the Land Protection Plan that has already been approved.

Wilsonia owners still need stronger assurance that Wilsonia will be here for our grandchildren and great grandchildren. This item will require much more communication, options mentioned during the meeting ranged from an Act of Congress, Strategic Plans and Foundation Documents, to a MOU.

Next Meeting—Tuesday, January 28, 3 pm, Provost and Pritchard

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Submitted by Drew Sorensen and Christine Smith