

Highlands Civic Association

- To strengthen the sense of community, responsibility, and livability in the Highlands for all residents.
- To protect, preserve, and further the residential quality of the Highlands area.
- To maintain an open line of communication among the Highlands neighborhood, the Borough of State College, the University community, and other Borough neighborhoods and agencies.
- To facilitate the exchange of information among Highlands Civic Association (HCA) residents.

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

7:15 – 9:00 pm

State College Municipal Building, Room 241

Meeting convened at 7:15 pm

1. **Introductions:** Mark Huncik, Susan Venegoni, Eric White, Margaret Sebastianelli, Elizabeth Shirey, James Brady, Tyler Fuller, Jim and Susan Shincovich, Tom Gesell, David Stone, Steve Bair
2. **Greek Announcements:**
 - a. State United, the Greek spring service project designed to assist Highlands' residents with home and yard work, is scheduled for April 8 and 22.
 - b. IFC and Highlands brunch will be hosted by Theta Delta Chi, 305 East Prospect Avenue, Sunday, April 22, 12:00 – 3:00 pm.
3. **Special Guest Presentation: Local Fire Safety/Emergency Response: 2017 Year in Review.** Steven Bair, Executive Fire Officer, Chief Fire Officer, Chief of Department, Alpha Fire Company.

Chief Bair provided a comprehensive overview of the Alpha Fire Company mission and a statistical review of 2017 local fire safety and emergency response activity. Highlights from his presentation are as follows:

1. Regional fire protection is comprised of three entities that work together for a common purpose: Centre Country Council of Government (tax funding, career staff, vehicles, stations, equipment, fire marshals, codes), Alpha Fire Company (volunteer staff, donation funds, grant access, member amenities), Relief (insurance, equipment, training funds).
2. Alpha Fire Company employs 5 career staff and 97 volunteers to manage its labor and capital intense operations.

3. Alpha response from the time of the call to the time the fire team has the hoseline in the building is approximately 12 minutes. Alpha performance remained strong through 2017.
4. The Alpha volunteers are dispatched to fire and technical rescue calls within 104 square miles, servicing a population of 93,000. The unit works hand-in-hand with 5 municipalities and Penn State.
5. Alpha responded to 1,359 incidents plus 93 mutual aid incidents outside their 'first due' (service area). Mutual aid out to Port Matilda, Boalsburg and Bellefonte were recorded with the highest number of incidents in 2017. In descending order of the number of incidents, mutual aid was provided to Pleasant Gap, Centre Hall, Philipsburg, Other Centre County, Huntingdon County, Mifflin County and Dauphin County.
6. Alpha volunteers provided 11,433 hours 'on scene' preparing, traveling and cleaning up.
7. The monthly historical data report identifies October with the highest number of incidents (high population of visitors for sporting events, Halloween).
8. State College Borough accounted for 671 incidents: 267 automatic alarm, 165 cancellation, 72 hazardous condition, 56 good intent/public service, 44 rescue, 38 building, 11 other fire, 10 police department assist, 5 vehicle, 3 special/other.
9. Alpha Response Performance standards are based on PA regulations for suburban areas: 10 minutes to arrival and 10 volunteer staff to manage the incident. Alpha reported saving approximately \$2,781,730 of building value in 10 significant structure fires, while property owner losses of approximately \$231,740.
10. Penn State is the sole funding source for regional hazmat. The Regional Fire Protection Program provided direct support to Penn State Hazmat by way of all team training and exercise, joint response and training, equipment maintenance and procurement. Eight hazmat incidents were documented in 2017.
11. Alpha volunteers completed 7,468 hours of formal training (approximately 72 hours per member).
12. Alpha Fire Company and program staff facilitated public education and outreach services through 34 events, representing 86 work hours serving 3,974 people. Annual Santa Run and FourthFest figures were excluded.

Agenda items tabled for the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli April 2018