

Meeting with Representative David Gomberg
July 12, 2021
Neskowin

Brandon Beaujeu and Randall Koch met with Neskowin's State Representative David Gomberg at Randall Koch's home to both introduce David to Brandon as the new Neskowin CAC Chair and to review activities and explore potential ways Rep. Gomberg may be able to support activities in our community through his office.

First on the agenda was to share our appreciation for the \$1 Million funding of the Egress Road in Neskowin. David explained that he introduced the budget item and Betsy Johnson made sure it passed. His humility was appreciated as well but without his championing and getting the correct terminology the funding would not have happened.

Also it was important to acknowledge the funding David secured for coastal communities in this last session. See the report on this link:
<https://www.tillamookcountypioneer.net/news-update-from-state-representative-david-gomberg-dollars-and-sense-a-session-overview/>

We explored the possible ways that the state may create legislation to help unincorporated communities manage Short Term Rentals (STR's) better. David said that currently the issue is not gaining traction statewide so it is hard to get movement in committees to act and create legislation. It remains a challenge to understand how mom and pop STR's can be supported while purely business oriented, profit centered large STR's can be correctly identified and taxed and zoned as businesses in R-1 zones. David thought that the most likely management means would be the services that are used and in some cases overused, like water and sewer which that could regulate use. He also indicated that the Hotel and Restaurant Lobby, which is quite powerful in Salem, are pretty soft on STR's and that the STR lobby was infiltrating the Hotel and Restaurant Lobby and influencing policy more to the STR's advantage.

Rep. Gomberg also indicated concern regarding "renegade" STR's that collect fees but don't pay into the system for which the fees are collected, evade auditing their activities and basically don't obey the rules governing STR's. Enforcement of rules is a real concern.

Brandon and Randall apprised Rep. Gomberg of the intention of Neskowin to secure its drinking water through the purchase of uphill property serving as the community's watershed. They asked for his ongoing attention to legislation which may help communities and in particular unincorporated communities, secure safe drinking water for their use.

Brandon outlined the concerns of the community and measures that may be taken to make homes and businesses more FireWise. Brandon outlined the basic concepts and measures that can be taken to help manage fuel loads around homes and improve the communications network so citizens in our communities are informed of changing conditions. Representative Gomberg lives in the path the Echo Mountain fire went through and his home was spared.

David said to keep in touch and let him know if there is anything he can do for our community.