

**IRA Board Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2015
Sydne and Allan Bortel's Home**

PRESENT: Ron Bennett, Sydne Bortel, Susan Fisher, Helen Chapman, Diane Harley, Bob Lundstrom, Michael Ongerth, Myn Adess, Leah Light. Guests: Allan Bortel, Julie Merk.

Meeting called to order at 9:50 am.

Clarification of last minutes: The following clarifies item #3 from the September 2015 minutes:

Contractors invited to look at patching potholes on Drakes View and grading dirt roads Roberts (significant), Lower Dover (significant), Dover, Douglas, and Sunnyside. Agreed that it would be advantageous next year to secure grading contractor early so that road work can begin earlier in the year, i.e. in April/May when dirt roads might still be damp.

Move to approve September minutes, with clarification as noted here: Mike Ongerth; second: Bob Lundstrom. Passed.

2. Treasurer's report—Helen Chapman

Previous balance: \$10,579.43

Dues collected: \$100

Interest earned, 2 months: .36

New Balance: \$10,543.26

94 paid households for 2015; 7 paid for 2016, 5 paid through 2017, and some for 2018.

Only 32 have not joined.

Parcel numbers available from Laurie Stetson and Susan Fisher. Can use these to get addresses of owners from the County to contact about membership.

3. PRERAB report—Michael Ongerth

Road board meets November 21 9:30 at Michael Ongerth's house. Anyone welcome to come.

Updates:

- Bob Lewis, contractor contacted in August for road grading, pot holes, cleaning ditches, drop boxes and water bars, has been busy. May come a week from Monday and will be done before Thanksgiving. (Lunny and two other contractors suggested by county road superintendent all booked up when asked in August.) The work will involve more patching than done in last 5 years, particularly at intersections of DVD with Sunnyside, Pinecrest, and Behr Lane, using aggregate to create base for asphalt. Exploring possibility of bringing in contractor Borello for next year.

- State passed new regulations on government funding of contractors, which made small jobs like ours unattractive because of the paperwork needed to do before bidding.
- Overall, roads in pretty good shape due to light winter and easy summer without a lot of construction activity. Concern: pavement deterioration and alligating on DVD, esp. above 300 (also on Robert and Lower Dover), is not included in the current bid. Considering repaving those areas.
- Mike will tell IRA the balance in the reserve account. Next year may want to use more PRERAB funds to get more done.
- Sight line and SOD trimming by Pacific Slope completed. In future, PRNS ok with us working within the easement of Park Service property.
- SOD: Marin Fire has worked at end of Sunnyside and top of DVD with 14-man crew from Novato. Putting enough chips down to control erosion from the work. Follow-up with Christie Neill about chipping piles on upper part of lower Dover.

4. Website: Myn attend PRERAB meeting if possible to introduce website and get someone to train for updating. Any improvements to the online map welcome; contact Myn.

5. Escape routes: Rip Golet has installed chain and lock on his gate; code 0911; fire dept knows.

Susan contacting Golet and Bertelsen/Gamble re posting signs showing emergency exit routes.

6. Signage for bottom of hill: Fire Danger.

Sign development should go through IRA Board. Park doesn't have personnel to manage the old, hinged sign that could warn of fire danger, so took it down. Ron will follow up with McManus, thank her for being willing to work on it and let her know board has to ok what goes up.

7. Emergency card: Bob updating the card. Only room for the one map. Leah will get the cards made. Yellow. Bring to General Meeting. Susan and Myn will produce full-page map with emergency numbers to hand out at General Meeting as well.

8. Special Guest: Christie Neill, Battalion Chief for Marin County Fire Vegetation Management Program

Christie explained the coordinated work of Marin Fire, PRNS, and PG&E to deal with defensible space, vegetation management and especially clearing evacuation routes in PRE. We are her main priority right now.

Inspection and compliance with vegetation management: Marin Fire inspects properties that are out of compliance for vegetation management; inspectors will go out up to 3 times to work with homeowner. If still not compliant, send "threat letter" from the chief and visit. Marin Fire has limited authority if inadequate response; would need to bring in Sheriff's dept. to write a ticket. Need to get authority from Bd of Supervisors to do more enforcement.

200 Sunnyside: Working with the owners (Jamie will start doing some of the work with Lieberman's daughter; Mark Watts owns the upper structures and has been talked to). Marin Fire will continue to check back.

190 Sunnyside (Burgess)—in contact with him re cutting back what's out in the road and a little more so don't have to do every year.

Evacuation routes: Working with Jordan Reeser at PRNS regarding where the Park borders private property. Park Service has equipment and funds and is engaging with Marin Fire to work on Park Service boundary at top of Drakes View and tying into Sunnyside. Opening up evacuation route from Behr Lane to the gate at Sunnyside. PG&E will deal with the sections where power lines cross Sunnyside. (Tony Walls is PG&E main vegetation management coordinator; his main forester works for Davey Tree Service.) PG&E may take out trees within the 40-ft road easement up to the power lines, also up the road on 25 Elizabeth where it's super thick, with approval of property owners. PG&E needs special use permit to work on Park Service Land; trying to expedite that.

Where Douglas comes in at Rip's property, small amount of trimming needed, which Marin Fire crew will take care of. Christie and Susan will talk to him together. Regarding the flammable fuel on Rip's property along Douglas, Marin Fire can point out dead and dying, but can't instruct homeowner to cut down their trees. Up to homeowners and IRA to make neighbors aware.

End of Douglas down to Laurel: Christie will look at whether there's anything they can work on there to clear that evacuation route.

Issue with Park Service parcels that border Dover and Lower Dover: Christie will talk to Park Service about the need for clearing there. Some questions about boundaries Park Service/private lands. Christie will help with communication between private owners and the Park.

Signage directing people along evacuation routes: Marin Fire will work with IRA on best locations and consistent verbiage. IRA will pay for signs. Marin Fire putting together a map that we can use on website.

Notifying residents of best evacuation routes in emergency: Generally happens through Sheriff's Dept, reverse 911, and the TENS system (Telephone Emergency Notification Systems).

Christie let Craig Parmeley at the County who works with our funds for PRERAB know of the work together.

What constitutes fire danger: A dead standing tree doesn't necessarily mean a big fire danger. More important is whether there's a fire ladder that could bring fire up from the ground. As long as there's a break between the surface and the canopy, less danger. If tanoak and brush in the middle, that creates a continuous ladder. Fire will torch out a number of trees at a time, spraying embers. Danger significantly influenced by weather, wind.

Statewide problem: Massive tree die-off throughout the state due to overstocked forests and drought and disease. Governor's declaration on tree mortality in the last couple of weeks: perhaps will open up funding for more tree work.

Thanks go to Tamia Anderson for starting the ball by writing to the Park Service about their joint responsibility for vegetation clearing with homeowners at Park boundaries.

9. Annual Meeting: January 23rd at Barbara Jay's, 10:00-12 with potluck.

Publicity (Diane): email, NextDoor, etc.

Set-up: Before leaving on Dec. 11, Sydne will work with Susan F. on helping Barbara. Bob L. will arrange for chairs from Seidner. Sydne has enough paper supplies remaining for the potluck; next year use supplies from Event Library.

Hand outs: Emergency numbers and evacuation route on cards and full-page versions

Speaker: Invite Dance Palace Executive Director Alison Marks or someone she designates from her board to talk about the Dance Palace's services to the community and partnerships with other service providers (WMCS, Senior Services).

Greeters: Helen and Julie Merk will greet people and encourage membership. Sydne will ask Alicia to encourage people to pay their dues.

10. Board Nominations

Directors whose terms end this year agreed stand for re-election: Susan Fisher, Bob Lundstrom, Michael Ongerth, Helen Chapman, Sydne Bortel. Susan will check with David Wilson and Alicia Jackson.

Officers nominated for 2016:

Tim Stanton, President

VP: Michael Ongerth

Secy: Myn Adess

Treasurer: Helen Chapman

Julie Merk agreed to be nominated to join the board.

People will talk to other neighbors about being nominated

Myn talk with Kai/Clare, Johanna Baruch, Carol Sweig

Bob query Maria Strattman about rejoining the board.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52

Myn Adess, Secretary