

MINUTES
Inverness Ridge Association Board Meeting
May 9, 2020
Via Zoom

Present: Sydne Bortel, Helen Chapman, Ken Drexler, Chris Eckert, Jennifer Howard, Lean Light, Julie Merk, Michael Ongerth, Tim Stanton, Marcus Thygeson, David Wilson
Absent: Ron Bennett, Jon Wurtzel

Patty Wimpfheimer was welcomed to the group as assistant to the treasurer.

March minutes: Approved

Treasurer's report: Stanton/Chapman. Since the last report there has been \$285 in dues income as well as \$0.03 in interest earned. There were expenses associated with the annual meeting and the trail day (\$97.24), our March post office box rental (\$64.00), and the filing of the required Secretary of State 1-100 form (\$25.00) for a total outlay of \$186.24. The balance as of May 5 is \$9,088.33.

Announcements

- NMWD tank replacement. Jennifer Howard reported that according to NMWD, excavation and drainage pipe work have begun and will continue next week.
- PRE cell phone alert system update. Tim Stanton reported that this is up and running fairly well though there have been some glitches with broadcasting; over 100 people have registered. Only phone numbers are listed so there is privacy.
- Disaster Liaisons. Chris Eckert reported that he is working with the Pt. Reyes Disaster Council. Neighborhood Liaisons (NL) are point people if there are major disasters (e.g., earthquake, fire). The goal is to have one NL for each of several areas in PRE but that there are currently some zones that do not have area liaisons. There was a discussion about NLs contacting residents in their areas. Text message vs. neighborhood liaison alerts: The cell phone alert system should be used for local problems such as downed trees. The need to let PRE residents know the distinction between the alert system and what the area liaisons do was discussed. Chris Eckert will draft a notice for Nadav Savio to post. Maybe all liaisons should have text alert authority to notify people—Nadav can also effectuate this if Chris checks with liaisons. Does IRA Board have to give permission to NL to use email lists – Chris will coordinate with Sherry re changes, etc. Steve Bowers has a list of PRE residents sorted by streets that should be useful for NLs.
- Laurel evacuation route. Michael Ongerth noted that there has been use of the evacuation route by automobile and foot traffic although our agreement with the

property owners is that the emergency route really is *only* for real emergencies. A downed tree is not an emergency by this definition. There is a trail that is SE of route and that is a thoroughfare open to public for foot traffic. Additional means to deter non-emergency traffic were discussed. One suggestion is the placement of sandwich boards across the entrance to the emergency route. Clearer signage at the intersection of the public and emergency routes would also be useful. Perhaps signs could direct cyclist and walkers one way and show no cars or people at intersection of walking path and emergency route. Burton Eubank, who monitors the area from Laurel Street, has been photographing license plates so that individuals driving the emergency route can be identified and reminded of the need to respect our right of passage only for emergencies.

- Chipping program. Michael Ongerth noted that this is moving forward. There will be two rounds of this—the weekend after July 4 and the weekend after Labor Day will be deadlines for people to place their piles at the road so that bids can be obtained for the work.

Old Business

- Road re-paving Task Force. Ken Drexler advised us about a slowdown in progress toward a vote because of Covid-19. The Task Force needs to have a face-to-face meeting with residents on West Robert to discuss concerns about speeding should paving of this section of road be paved. The paving plan itself is in the process of being written—work proposed, why needed, expected costs; once that is done, there needs to be a community meeting such as the previous one at the Dance Palace. We need to get 70% signatures on petition for a ballot measure and this is difficult when we are sheltering in place. Even if a large meeting should be permitted in the near future there was a sense that many people would have reservations about gathering as a large group. There was a discussion of moving forward by having webinar meetings to discuss the project with the community. We also need to have Board of Supervisors input with Dennis Rodoni behind the project. There was a sense that the project could be delayed a year or more. Given the tax increase from measure C (March election), drop in market, and other financial woes, people's willingness to add to their property taxes may ebb so a delay might not be too bad though costs might increase.
- PRERAB update. Michael Ongerth reported that 38 DVD potholes that need work were identified. Lunny and IGS bid on the job and IGS got contract; work started May 8 and should be completed by May 12. Smoothing of some gravel road surfaces started in late fall and then there was a halt to see how much rain damage would occur. Perhaps in about a month new waterbars will be adjusted and gravel restored if it moved around. That will be all the work to be done until next fall. There is no money for vegetation management at this time. Money for vegetation management came from a sunsetted assessment that ended two years ago; money that was in reserve is very low and will be used only for emergencies. Thus, no weed whipping will be done. We need to figure out how to get money for this to

occur. Chipping is a separate project so there is no economy if we combine these two activities. Last year we did weed whipping for 10 feet on each side of the road for all (exit ?) roads, at a cost of 15K. We don't have access to that kind of money at this time. Tim should remind people to deal with grass on their verges in his report to community. Also, it was suggested that we have community work days to deal with particular areas such as Douglas or Sunnyside or that don't have people resident to take care of their properties. Point Reyes National Seashore also is shy of funds to deal with this matter where their property abuts residential areas though it did extensive vegetation management at the top of Drake's View Drive fairly recently. Limbing up to preserve sight lines will not be done by PRERAB but members may go out with their loppers at critical intersections. PGE has been very aggressive so few trees are now threatening road in a major way. Big trees that could fall over on road could be managed with chipping program and PRERAN will fund this.

All of this underscores the point that there will not be moneys to do what PRERAB has done before, especially if the election (and parcel tax) are put off—we need to relay to the community that we need to have money to do vegetation management. This might motivate people to vote positively when the election takes place for repaving. It might also encourage more community participation. Work parties in the past striped Drake's View Drive and cleared road duff but there has been less volunteer work in recent years so that funds from IRA and PRERAB have had to fill gaps. We didn't raise IRA dues last year because of concerns about the March election and the repaving project election but will clearly need to do this next year.

Should we do vegetation management rather than the chipping program? The chipping program appeals to need to clear property appropriately so there is incentive to do it and the program is close to being self-sufficient because fees have been raised each year. IRA will be giving only about 20% if there are enough tickets sold this year.

We need to spend more time working through these kinds of issues of community engagement as a board. Perhaps pandemic has increased this concern so a small group could work on this Marcus Thygeson will coordinate a group to brainstorm all of these issues. Dues question to be on Board's agenda for July.

- Firesafe Task Force – plans for 2020. David Wilson noted that we are Fire Wise qualified until 2021. Measure C moneys are countywide and devoted to fire prevention generally. We don't have much voice in allocation of funds and David's review shows we will be funded for one chipper day per year. Some jurisdictions get two additional days if they have specific types of infrastructure (e.g., utility districts). David Wilson will try to reach FireSafe Marin's Shorthall to see if we can get more funds for 2021 when next the assessment appears on bills. Landscaping tips including hardscaping near structures can be found on the web. Ways to organize PRE to increase our eligibility for funding were discussed

(e.g. form a fire protection district) to try to get more funds? It is clear that PRE will contribute more funding than we receive back for our one chipping day.

New Business

- Outreach to AirBnBs. Sydne Bortel led a discussion of speeding concerns. It is hard to assess whether there is less of a problem when short-term rentals can't occur because we aren't clear who is resident on the hill during the time of shelter-in-place requirements. The utility of stop signs was discussed but it is clear that those we have are ignored. Speeding is potentially a more general issue for discussion by Marcus Thygeson's group. A letter can be prepared for owners of rental properties as community members about vegetation management on their parcels as well as speeding and fire safety (e.g., grilling).

Next meeting

- Date July 11, 2020
- Venue - Bortels