

PARADISE RANCH ESTATES ROAD ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary for March 5, 2016

- New Road Advisory Board Chair
- Drakes View repair and repaving
- Dirt road maintenance
- Vegetation Management update
- Upcoming discussion of signs in PRE
- More below. . .

Minutes of Meeting March 5, 2016

The Paradise Ranch Estates Road Advisory Board met on March 5, 2016, at the Ongerth residence in Paradise Ranch Estates. The meeting was attended by Board members Mike Ongerth, Tamia Marg Anderson, Ed Stetson, Laurie Stetson, Ron Bennett and Ken Drexler, Secretary. Joe Burgess also attended.

1. Chairman. Prior to the meeting John Levy announced that he was stepping down as the Chair of the Road Advisory Board although John said that he would continue as a Board member. Accordingly, the first order of business was the selection of a new Chair of the Road Board. After a brief discussion, Laurie Stetson was unanimously named to serve as Chair.

2. Drakes View Repaving Project. Mike Ongerth reported that he had inspected Drakes View and that although there were about 15 potholes, they were not growing in size and were not causing water to pond in them. He said that with the recent rain, he would have to mark the potholes on Drakes View and its side roads again so that the roads could be patched. Mike estimated that four truckloads of asphalt would be required for the work.

Mike, noting the Board's upcoming discussion of project to repave Drakes View, asked if the asphalt repairs should be done now or be wrapped into the larger project. Ken Drexler suggested that given the likely delay in having the road repaved, the repairs should be done now.

Laurie reported on contacts she had with Liza Crosse, aide to Supervisor Steve Kinsey. Laurie reported that Liza doubted that the County could or would loan the funds needed for the repaving project to the PRE Permanent Road Division. Lisa told Laurie that arranging a loan last time "was a fight." This report suggested that there additional

more meetings with the County would be needed to discuss the condition of the asphalt roads in PRE and the need for their repair. [Historical Note, the loan was arranged in 1991 - 1992, four years before Steve became supervisor and before Liza was his aide.]

As to any future parcel tax election Laurie said that, based on her count, there were only about 160 tax-paying parcels in PRE.

3. Dirt Road Maintenance. Mike reported that the dirt roads were in good shape for this time of year as a result of the addition of drain rock at several places and the work done to prepare for the winter rains. He said that as of the date of the meeting, PRE had 26 inches of rain since the start of 2016. He noted that most of it had been gentle with very few major runoff events.

Mike summarized the three maintenance projects done this winter: In late December, Bob Lewis did the road maintenance work which had been authorized in July. In early January, Lewis did additional work to remedy soupy areas on the roads. Finally, in February, Inverness Gardening Service worked to fill potholes and ruts and did some work on gullies. Mike described the work by IGS as a “super job.”

Mike’s report prompted a discussion on how to have the dirt road maintenance go more smoothly in 2016. Mike suggested that to accomplish this, the Road Board would need to start immediately to identify the contractor to do the work and that the Board at its May meeting should identified the work to be done. Mike said that he would prepare a list of recommended work for review at the May meeting.

During this discussion, Ron Bennett noted that Mike needed backup for his work over seeing the dirt road maintenance. This prompted Joe Burgess to volunteer to help. Mike accepted his offer and said he would tour the road with Joe to discuss conditions. In light of Joe’s agreement to help with the dirt road maintenance, the members invited Joe to join the Road Advisory Board and he agreed.

4. Signs. Mike said that he had marked nine places where he thought that water bar warning signs should be added. This prompted to comments from several members that there were already too many signs along the roads in PRE. The Board agreed to undertake a review of all signs in PRE and the need for each at its next meeting.

5. Vegetation Management. Tamia reported that thanks to the clear weather in February the Marin County Fire Department’s Tam crew had completed its work on National Park land along Lower Dover. Christie Neil of the MCFD made a suggestion for eight emergency exit signs to be placed throughout PRE on roads leading to the exit routes out of PRE. The most important signs were two at the entry to the evacuation routes through private property. Tamia deemed the other six a surfeit of signage.

Christie gave Tamia the MCFD draft map showing evacuation routes from PRE which Tamia brought to the meeting. Tamia said that she had been working with a skilled graphics person in Liz McManus' office who is working pro bono to make the map elegant and legible. When the map is completed it will go on the IRA website for use as a printable download.

Tamia said she spoke to Tony Walls, the PG&E forester in charge of PRE. He was working on the clearance of vegetation below the 12 KV power line running from the end of Elizabeth Place down to Sunnyside. He explained that PG&E has a lengthy authorization process but he is working to expand the clearing for that line from 20 feet to 80 feet. Tony anticipates that the work will be done between September 1 and October 31 as a collaboration between PG&E, the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) the PRE neighborhood.

Meanwhile, PG&E's routine trimming work is proceeding. It now has a secondary patrol which picks up trees that may have become hazardous since the primary patrol went through PRE to identify trees requiring removal. The secondary patrol identified 14 trees on both PRNS and private land which will be taken down by March 15th. The primary patrol will come through PRE in late May or early June. This is earlier than in prior years.

6. Evacuation Map Project. Tamia reported on her continuing work on the project to prepare a map showing evacuation routes out of PRE for use in emergencies. She noted that before the map could be completed, resolution of sensitive issues concerning evacuation through private lands would need to be resolved.

Finally, Laurie said that she had purchased and installed new locks on both ends of the Sunnyside extension through PRNS lands. Each of the locks is engraved, "Emergency Use Only, Do Not Use."

7. Road Board Membership. Ken said that pursuant to the Road Advisory Board's working agreement with the County, he would advise the County Administrator of the changes in the membership on the Road Advisory Board.

NEXT MEETING: The members tentatively set its next meeting for Saturday, May 7, 2016, at the Ongerth residence. [Late Note: The meeting has since been changed to May 14, 2016 at the same location.]

KD 4/12/2016