

**Meeting of the Board of the Carmel Views Community Association
March 6, 2021**

Board Members Present: Laura Speakman; Bud Miller; Alexis Speidel; Bill Vogelpohl; Maureen McEachen.

Absent Board Member: Steve Berardo

Community Members Present: Judy Feisthamel; Mary Pacey; Liz Gianola; Liz Chornesky; Buzz Joseph; Judy Wong (call in only); Lynn Berardo; Alexis Delehanty, Tempe Wennerholm

(1) Open comments from members (3 min each)

Judy Feisthamel described fire abatement work recently done in Section 6 and in the park. The change has been dramatic.

Bud Miller explained that felled logs that are difficult to remove are left behind, but they are arrayed in way that reduce fire risks. All of the branches have been hauled out or chipped. Small debris left behind.

Liz Gianola mentioned her new role in expressing concerns of homeowners affected by the power station and providing a liaison to the Board for those homeowners.

(2) Approve the minutes for Dec. 3 mtg.

After confirming that the minutes include revisions submitted by Board members, the Board voted and approved the minutes.

(3) Board activities and schedule

Laura Speakman explained that, with the exception of Steve Berardo, all members of the Board will continue with their previous roles: Laura Speakman, President; Bud Miller Communications; Maureen McEachen, Treasurer; Bill Vogelpohl, Infrastructure; Alexis Speidel, Secretary.

Steve Berardo is the new Vice President/Fire Abatement. Due to family obligations, his responsibilities will temporarily be taken on by Bud Miller. He'll be coordinating the work of the CVCA Fire Crew – which is taking on an expanded role this year.

Liz Gianola provided more detail about her role, serving as a liaison among the Board, PG&E, and homeowners concerned about the power station.

(4) Roles and responsibilities

Liz Gianola asked the Board, in communicating with PG&E, to consult with affected homeowners before agreeing to anything. The goal is to keep everyone informed and to avoid miscommunications. Also, it's important to avoid providing mixed messages to PG&E. Alexis Delehanty, for example, is negotiating with PG&E about the sound barrier, and it's important for PG&E to know she is the one on point for that task. There needs to be a process in place to make certain adequate consultation occurs.

Laura Speakman offered that the Board is now taking that approach. Recently, PG&E contacted her about removing a tree. Bud contacted the homeowner. Laura further delayed providing approval to PG&E until the homeowner's concerns were met about the method of tree removal.

Overall, the Board committed to timely and appropriate consultation with affected homeowners in all matters related to PG&E.

Bud Miller asked about the appearance of the sound barrier that PG&E will be installing at the power plant.

Alexis Delehanty sent a photo a while back to the Board and has a sample she can show. According to Alexis, the material looks like horizontal boards of a plastic composite. The interior side has fiberglass soundproofing. Residents who live near the power plant voted on the paint color, and it is going to be a shade of green. The installation date is still uncertain. PG&E still waiting for approval from the County and will provide a more definitive timeline at that point.

(5) Board Updates

Maureen McEachen summarized the response to the annual dues statement. 41 residents have responded so far. Most have also sent in completed Firewise surveys. Total deposits of dues and voluntary donations amount to about \$16K. Of the 41, about 6 included donations to support CVCA fire abatement work.

Bud Miller discussed ongoing fire abatement work and information about the grant that will expire at the end of March. Some of the grant money is still hung up in the US Forest Service, but they are hoping it will become available for work in Carmel Views. That will affect how much work will be completed under the grant. Here is where things stand:

1. A lot of dead trees have been taken down in area 6, with logs left on the ground
2. Several trees were removed in area 7
3. Brush has been piled up along Outlook and on a dirt road in section 3. CVCA is in the process of getting bids to haul it out.

4. Proposals have been made to remove Genista from several areas that haven't been touched for 5 years — specifically where houses are above the brush. Area 4. Area 1 next to Outlook. Upper Area 4. The other side of Area 4 next to Pine Hills.
5. Area 8, at the north end, a bunch of dead trees. This is where PG&E wants to take down a tree leaning towards a power line.
6. PG&E Also interested in an oak tree well above the power station.
7. Also may be able to take down two dead trees downslope from Outlook Drive before Beemer's bench if/when the grant funding becomes available.

Bud is planning to call a meeting of the power abatement crew soon. Going to ask the team to start plotting out Genista pulling areas, so can be eradicated while the ground is wet.

A lively discussion ensued about Genista and Genista pullers. Lynn Berardo mentioned a smaller version that is more maneuverable. She is going to buy one from a nursery in Half Moon Bay for herself and will report back whether they are easier to use than the heavier (~16 lb.) ones owned by CVCA. CVCA is still trying to locate the Genista pullers that it owns: Its possible that Bob Sinotte has one. Bud pointed out that it is pretty easy to pull out young (up to 2' high) Genista plants during the rainy season when the ground is soft. Laura Speakman mentioned that she has read that the seeds can lay dormant for years. Bud has uploaded a new document all about how to eradicate Genista to the CVCA website. It was sent by Pam Peck and is very helpful.

Bud Miller asked the Board to consider how the Fire Abatement Committee can get rapid approval for imminent needs. Laura Speakman and Maureen McEachen pointed out that (a) the Board needs to be fully informed about the purpose and (b) the costs need to be fully accounted for. That said, rapid decisions can be made through phone calls and/or email. The possibility of setting an upper threshold (perhaps \$3K) for rapid decisions was considered.

Bud said that the Committee will come to the Board for all requests. Also, the Committee will get more than one bid to ensure competitive pricing. Laura Speakman pointed out that price, though important, is not the only consideration. CVCA needs to make sure that our contractors are taking down trees correctly.

Bud Miller put out a call for information about companies that are good at Genista removal.

Several people raised concerns about the proper disposal of Genista, because people have gotten conflicting information about whether it can be put into the green cans. (Genista cannot be put out for Chipper Days.) Bud Miller said he would contact Waste Management to get this clarified.

Several people raised concerns about Waste Management's new policy of issuing citations for errors in waste disposal. Judy Feisthamel said she was recently told by Waste Management that only clear plastic can go into the recycling bins. Liz Chornesky mentioned she had received a warning with a photo in the letter about her recycling – but the photo was not from her can.

Lynn Berardo said that, when she lived in Arizona, people put clear information about their addresses on the recycling cans to avoid such mix-ups.

(6) Final Thoughts

Next meeting of the Board will be in late May, early June.

Bud Miller said he is starting to look into the possibility of making CVCA into a 501C3. Our dues and donations might become tax deductible. It would smooth access to the Gabilan crews.