

Carmel Views Community Association Annual Meeting

Sunday January 31, 2021 at 4:00pm

Minutes

Brought to order by president Laura Speakman 4:05 pm

Notice from president: Because this meeting is being conducted over Zoom and phone due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, we ask participants to be muted until called and notify participants that this meeting is recorded

I. Approval of Minutes: January 2020 annual meeting minutes, approved with no opposition

II. Updates from Board Members and Committees:

A. County Service Area (CSA) 47 Advisory Committee (Charlie Wahle): This committee is charged with presenting recommendations to the Monterey County resource management agency. Our service area includes Carmel Views and a bit of Mar Vista. The committee has identified three categories of recommendations: 1. Road Safety (7 items) 2. Fire Safety (2 items) 3. General (2 items). To encourage quicker action the committee has identified the items of highest priority as 1. Repair road surface upheavals/pot holes that cause danger (about 10 spots of immediate need). 2. Alternative fire escape routes/egress 3. Remove flammable vegetation and debris from roadside. Charlie asks for resident participation at the next zoom meeting (Wed Feb 3rd 5:30-7:00-- meeting notifications are sent by email to CVCA members) and future CSA 47 meetings to reiterate the urgency of these needs to the county.

B. Budget (Treasurer Maureen McEachen): In 2020, CVCA spent more on fire abatement than planned (\$2,390.57 over), but lower than usual legal fees kept the discrepancy to a minimum. In 2021, the dues increase to \$260 gives us a proposed budget of \$53,880. If the dues increase to \$350 passes, then our budget will be \$62,550. All additional funds will go to fire abatement. Fixed expenditures are about \$12,000 per year subject to nominal increases (website, mailings, P.O. box, water bill, etc.).

- C. Fire Abatement (Jane Sutton):** Jane is unable to attend meeting; Bud Miller summarized 2020 fire abatement work done in Carmel Views common areas (See map for referenced areas): Area 1: Cleaned gully (annually completed), but rest of uphill area has not been touched (hard to access). Area 2: Pam Peck sent grant crew to clear Genista in December 2020 except for steepest areas. Area 3: took out about one dozen trees and genista clearing. Area 4: Biggest and most difficult. Cleared by Gabilan crews with



chainsaws cutting all veg behind houses along Outlook and two circle streets. Top of canyon is pretty inaccessible but hoping to penetrate more next year. Area 5: Genista and downed trees cleared. Area 6: Genista and trees. Area 7 (park): county took out a bunch of dead trees by roads. Area 8: Some genista has been cleared but will need more work. Area 9: too steep for fire crews and goats so will continue to just do along road. Chipper program will continue in 2021. Updates will be on website (carmelviews.net), but first dates to be April 5th-25th. Laura also added that we have a group of fire volunteers (about 8 people) out in the neighborhood looking for problem areas/trees. She has also continued to reach out to the owners of the undeveloped property to the east of Carmel Views to discuss developing a fire break, but so far no response.

- D. Firewise Program (Liz Chornesky):** This is a nonprofit voluntary program--not government or regulatory--of community collaboration and education to encourage action towards fire safety. We are considering participation to join 350 communities in California and 1,500 more in the U.S. Benefits: 1. Helps the community as a whole for fire safety/reduced ignition risk. 2. Access to public education resources and become part of a regional network put together by the fire safe council. 3. Possible insurance discounts. 4. Firefighting crews see communities as more defensible knowing they have reduced fuels and hardened homes. 5. 5x more likely to receive grants because demonstrates commitment to fire safety. 6. Possible increase in property values. How to become members: 1. Risk assessment of neighborhood for data analysis--hardening of homes and defensible space (update every 5 years)--which requires an anonymous survey of membership (can be sent out with annual dues). 2. Three-year action plan (i.e., how to improve communication-website education, tutorials, voluntary home inspections to give advice, chipper days). Some of this we already do and we ask for resident input as well. And then once a year report to the program including reporting of volunteer hours (requires an average of 1 hour per home per year).
- E. Infrastructure (Bill Vogelpohl):** Chipper Days: in addition to dates on website, we put out a banner at entrance to neighborhood 10 days before. Street lights: continues to survey them periodically to make sure they are all working. Fire evacuation advice is on the CVCA website. Please check out in advance and please reach out to neighbors who may need additional help to evacuate.

- F. Communications (Bud Miller):** There is a large amount of helpful information on the CVCA website (carmelviews.net) including home hardening information. Please contact him with any suggestions for additional content.
- G. Updates from the President (Laura Speakman):**
1. Fire Grant: Pam Peck was able to extend it past the December 2020 deadline so work continues for a couple more months (Gabilan fire crews should be complete, but goats and mastication crew work still to come). After the grant runs out, CVCA will be financially responsible for all fire abatement work and will have to cover the cost through dues.
 2. Disputes and complaints: 2020 was a quiet year for disputes. Complaints centered around parking in the street and litter. Also request drivers to slow down on Canada Dr.
- H. Water Board (Amy Anderson):** The Monterey County water board has had a few meetings that included the water recycling projects receiving 15 million dollars, new board members, Measure J proceeding, and the seaside basin has received injection from recent rainstorm.

III. Voting

- A. Election of board members:** Ballot counter Tom Surbridge provided following results: Out of 173 members, 112 ballots were received. Steve Berardo received 99 votes for fire abatement chair/board vice president, Laura Speakman 103 for board president, and Bill Vogelpohl 104 for board infrastructure.
- B. Vote to increase annual dues to \$350:** We needed a quorum of at least 87 votes cast for a dues increase. With 112 votes, quorum was reached. The vote was 73 in favor, 39 against. A simple majority voted in favor so fee increase is approved. Laura added that board is willing to work with any member unable to pay increase.

IV. Comments and Questions

Michelle Nix: Firewise question--can we ever get unrecognized if we fail to meet requirements? Liz's response: They seem to just want to see progress, doesn't seem to have any punitive quality and completely voluntary to create engaged communities. Hopefully it just becomes a part of our activity like maintaining common areas but on private lands. But we can always pull out of the program in future.

Buzz Joseph: Appreciates work of board members. He has lived here 40 years and he is conflicted and dismayed re: trees removed by PG & E around their substation on Canada Ct which resulted in aesthetic and noise problems. He wants PG & E to ameliorate the problem, to justify that the tree removal was truly a mandate from CalFire, and was the removal all on PG & E land? Liz response: Sympathetic and agrees PG and E needs to improve aesthetics.

Sandy Pratt: Did board meet with PG & E re: tree removal? Should we contact PG and E? Laura Response: Yes, and PG & E informed us that they were mandated to clear some trees and they were letting the board know this was going to take place. Yes, members should contact PG & E.

Liz Gianola: Would like board support when they contact PG & E for action (vegetation and sound barrier). Laura: we can work to find a representative to contact PG and E for neighborhood. Maureen: we need a contact representing affected residents like we do with sound blanket.

Alexis Delehanty: Has an email that says board needs to give permission for work to go forward. Had a meeting with PG and E representatives and they said they had already received permission from board. Amanda is new point person for wall/sound blanket, but Liz (old contact) will still talk when necessary, and was reassured that wall is moving forward. Late spring to early summer. Feels PG & E went to her and the board and we were not unified front. Feels we should not push on vegetation issue and just push on wall construction for now.

Susan Greenbaum: For upper Pine Hills Drive power surges that cause appliance outages--Mary Surbridge has been PG & E point person. So, Mary and Alexis Delehanty should talk to each other to strategize.

Sally Miller: Thanks to everyone for attending and for community contribution.

Suchita Nayak: Thanks to board because the work that is being done for fire abatement which has reassured her about wildfire issue.

Laura: Will talk to Rio Vista about trees on their common property that are close to power lines and cause outages. Welcomes new member Steve Berardo to board.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:43 by Laura Speakman

Minutes prepared by Alexis Speidel, CVCA Board secretary