

Inverness Ridge Association Board Meeting  
July 9, 2022  
Via Zoom

Present: Ron Bennett; Sydne Bortel, Joe Burgess, Ken Drexler (for the road repaving discussion), Jennifer Howard, Leah Light, Michael Ongerth, Jim Wagner, David Wilson, Patty Wimpfheimer

Absent: Chris Eckert, Julie Liss, Julie Merk, Tim Stanton

Minutes of May 14, 2022: Leah Light

Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Patty Wimpfheimer

As of March 10, 2022, our balance was \$25,848.43. Income during the last two months was \$0.30 in interest. The current balance, as of May 5, 2022, is \$25,848.73.

Announcements

None.

Old Business

Road Paving Task Force: Ken Drexler and Michael Ongerth

The project is moving along at the expected pace given its complexity and the county's protocol. ILS will prepare a set of bid specs that will go out for bid. We will not know what proportion of project can be accomplished until bids come back. Mike Evans says we're behind but that it is anticipated that specifications can be submitted to the county for review by the end July or early August. Some details that will need to be considered include driveway transitions and culvert replacement. Culvert inspections are underway; the culvert at 20 Drake's View Drive will need replacement and some of the 16 additional culverts may need repair or replacement as well. Sightline and other pre-paving work is still planned—coordination by the task force, PRERAB, and county-funded Measure C work will be needed in the pre-paving phase. Individual homeowners who wish to carry out driveway work will be able to work with the contractor selected for the project.

PRERAB Update: Michael Ongerth

Projected work includes summer weed clearing of high grasses along the road; specifications for this have been submitted to the county. There was some thought of doing tree removal of potentially dangerous trees but this is not in the specs. Some road work, including removal of water bars, will also be carried out.

There was discussion of the responsibility of property owners regarding the 10-foot zone from the edge of the road. Grass should be kept below four inches in height. PRERAB has seen to this in the past when funds were available but the assessment that underwrote this activity sunsetted in 2017. The road repaving project has built-in funds for doing this. We used to do this later in the season but drying out is occurring earlier. Ken noted that there is an advantage to our handling this because work can be done on all properties at the same time and to same standard,

#### Evacuation Committee: Jennifer Howard

Jim Wagner has joined the committee that also includes Christian Winslow and Leah Light. One goal of the May fire drill was to test the alerting system. Jennifer has been trying to get clarity on whether we are signed up on Alert Marin because not everyone got alerts. The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority suggests NOAA radios for all homeowners. The importance of notifying short-term renters about evacuation routes was stressed.

With respect to evacuation routes, Drake's View Drive is to be the primary route out of our community unless sheriff office personnel direct otherwise. Ron Bennett pointed out that fires are constantly changing, that fires move good clearance along the road is critical. If people use any route other than that directed by sheriff office personnel, wind, and embers could endanger them...and the fire could be where they are heading. A question was also raised about whether the wording of the sign at the end of Sunnyside might be misleading in terms of the use of the fire road as an evacuation route.

#### FireWise Committee: David Wilson

We had expected that work funded by Measure C along Drake's View would have progressed further by now. However, questions have arisen as to whether permission to do such work is needed from the Coastal Commission because our area is under their purview. The issue is whether the projected work constitutes a local project that doesn't need approval or a core project that does need approval. It is presently unclear when this will be resolved.

According to Jordan Reeser, Drake's View Drive is in better shape than our narrow, twisty side roads with overhanging canopies that really need attention. David is in touch with state people with respect to property to the north of us. There are both state and federal lands with prevailing winds that put us in danger in the late fall; the winds tend to blow toward the Vision fire area where there is old growth with plentiful dead material. The state obtained this land when property taxes were in default, but it has been unclear what their maintenance goals are.

Measure C chipping days will be held in July and October. Signups for July are proceeding well, with only 20/120 slots still available; additional slots may be added if needed. Ninety slots remain available for October. The consensus was to wait until July to determine whether additional IRA-sponsored chipping days would be useful. The county appears to be flexible with respect to both the number of slots assigned to chipping days and to the amount of material that each household can chip.

In a few months we will need to renew our FireWise certification. We will need to update the 5-year plan from 2017, turning attention to the area to north of us (see previous paragraph). David is trying to determine park plans for this area and how we might get additional support to mitigate fire danger there. Jennifer suggested that we need to also include home hardening and evacuation route considerations in our planning and to seek grant money for these activities from Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (Measure C) funds.

#### Chipping days: Michael Ongerth

Our first chipping day will be next week. Piles to be chipped must be out by the first of the week. The second Measure C chipping day will be in early October. People should reserve spots in advance. Unofficially the drill is to just chip everything that has been put out (this happened last year) but we cannot count on this. We decided at our May meeting that IRA wouldn't sponsor a chipping day until we see what happens with the Measure C events.

#### New Business

#### Road Paving Celebration/Appreciation Event: Jennifer Howard

The planning committee will convene soon to discuss the logistics for an informational meeting to update the community about the schedule of work to be completed. It is possible that a Zoom meeting for informational purposes would occur relatively soon to be followed by a celebration later on.

#### Next meeting

Date: September 10, 2022

Venue: Zoom