

Marin Conservation League

North Marin Unit

Meeting Notes

May 22, 2014

The meeting was called to order at the Stompe home. Present were: Pat U'Ren, Joyce Applen, Bernie Meyers, Edith Piltch(left at 1), Don Wilhelm, Gail Wilhelm, Ralph Webb, Rosalie Webb, Eleanor Sluis. Delyn Kies and Susan Stompe

Announcements: Bernie remembered Mike DiGeorgio, with whom he served on the Novato City Council, who died recently, Business & Environment Breakfast is on June 19 and is focused on waste to energy.

Notes of the April meeting were approved as distributed.

Proposed Solar Farm in Bowman Canyon: Susan reviewed the proposal submitted to the county to construct 96 dual axil trackers with 40 modules on each, plus 4392 fix mounted arrays on the former Cooley quarry at the north/east end of Bowman Canyon. The facility would generate 1.98 MW of power. The discussion focused on the site and other possible uses. The area is zoned A-60, but the viability of agricultural use has been compromised by the quarrying. The area is on the county PCA list as a priority open space adjacent to Mt. Burdell. The creeks are badly incised and the county would like to stabilize them since they contribute so much silt to Novato Creek. The site is fairly close to the PG&E substation at San Marin. It seems like an appropriate site for a solar facility. A field trip would answer a lot of questions, or someone representing the applicant.

Novato General Plan. Charets on Redwood Blvd between DeLong and San Marin are planned for May 22 and June 9 at City Hall. Discussion focused on keeping the wide median, retaining 2 lanes of traffic in each direction, and enhancing the landscaping. It was also recommended keeping building heights to 2 stories. North, north Redwood Blvd. will be discussed two Saturday mornings, June 7 and June 14 at the Margaret Todd Senior Center.

Gail pointed out the Way-Finding signs are in place, but was surprised that the City Hall red was not used, as recommended in the workshops.

Blackpoint Community Plan is being developed. Rosalie has not seen it since she just got back from wintering in the desert. The next meeting is June 5.

MOST progress: Joyce reported that they are working with the community around Sky Ranch in San Anselmo

Water District: Rick reported to Susan that the District is dependent on the Russian River and constraints imposed on its use. Right now voluntary limits are in place.

Other: A question came up about the bequest left to Novato Rotary for a Community Center. Susan to investigate. There were suggestions during the meeting for speakers to update the group on Redwood Landfill and their composting, and Novato Sanitary District following Marin Sanitary on restaurant waste.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10

The next meeting will be at noon on Thursday, June 19 at Applens