

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
Final Meeting Notes

August 8, 2012

The meeting was called to order at the Wilhelm home. Present were: Joyce Applen, Dorothy Thomas, Don Wilhelm, Gail Wilhelm, Bernie Meyers, Pam Drew and Susan Stompe.

Announcements included: September 22 hike on Mt. Tam, Business Breakfast on Sept. 28 on Carbon Sequestration, MCL is supporting the Parks, Open Space and Farm Preservation ballot measure.

The notes of the July 18 meeting were approved as distributed.

Projects and Issues around Novato:

County Multifamily design survey: A few people had opened the survey, but didn't think it reflected Novato or Marin. It also allowed only yes or no responses, to alternatives that were very limited. No one had sent it in, but two took copies to submit.

Millworks survey: Susan reported that the MCL Executive Committee gave an OK for using MCL as the return address. Nona recommended some wording changes in the cover letter. There was discussion about providing an incentive for returning the survey. Susan will check with Dr. Insomnia about a discount certificate.

Port Sonoma/Carneros Ranch: Sonoma County approved a contract with URS to do the EIR. There is still no word of whether a scoping meeting will be held.

Novato revised processing to reduce staff time: There will be a hearing at the Planning Commission on Monday, August 20 at 7:30 p.m. about the reduction of the tree ordinance requirements. Staff is recommending that only oak, tanbark oak and madrone that are 20 inches in diameter two feet above ground level require a permit to alter or remove. All other trees could be cut down without any neighborhood notice or permit. NMU recommended only reducing the area of noticing from 600' to 300'.

Coastal CleanUp is on September 15: MCL is sponsoring the cleanup in Novato. Participants will meet at the Gazebo at Scottsdale Pond at 9 a.m.

Transportation issues: Don reported that TAM has been pretty quiet lately.

NCRA: Bernie responded to Don's comments regarding the last meeting which was held in Novato. Don, Susan and David Schnapf attended with questions for clarification regarding their finances and NWP payments. The NWP contract has been amended a couple times in the last couple years. There is a group in Eureka that is urging NCRA to work with them to develop an interim trail on the railroad right-of-way.

MOST: Joyce reported that there are no current projects.

Novato Square Shopping Center: The main anchor has been closed for many years and the whole center has been in decline. Pam said the neighborhood had met to discuss acceptable options. Joyce asked if the bequest left by Bill Jonah to the Novato Rotary for a Community Center had been spent. Gail said it had not, that they have looked at a variety of options. Joyce suggested that it would be so fitting to have the former Roger Wilco store be the Community Center since Mr. Jonah founded the store chain.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be on October 4 at the Stompe home.

Notes by SS