



**Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – August 5, 2024**  
7:00 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room

**Attendees:** Will Hart, Ellen Hagan, Joanne Brown, Sierra Bury, Eve Collins, Tom Creighton, Eileen Jorgensen, Spencer LeGate, Amanda Ringnald, Debbie Wandro, Karen Wcislo - a quorum

**Others:** Robin Prechter, Molle Feeney, Louisa Suta, Bob Aron and Yvette Young

**Will called the meeting to order.**

**Approval of previous meeting minutes**

It was noted that in the minutes from the last meeting the Firewise Committee Report stated that the FireSafe Council was providing free chipping services. We later learned that there is a charge. The minutes were approved as amended.

**Treasurer's report**

Janet provided the following input. Income from dues was \$6485. Our bank balance is \$8,589. Expenditures were \$1,864. Expenses for the upcoming party have been budgeted.

**Firewise Committee Report**

- Karen reminded members that the emergency evacuation road is to be used for emergencies only.
- Good news! Work is being done on an Excelsior Ditch shaded fuel break. This 2 year 500 acre project extends up from the Yuba River and came about through a grant obtained by the property owners.
- PG&E will remove tree debris that they left as they cleared around their lines. Phone call requests and perseverance is needed. 800 743-5000 is the number.
- The County's Office of Emergency Services will offer grants of \$20,000 for brush clearing on private roads. Interested neighbors should organize and assess the needs of their road. Make the Firewise Committee aware of your interest as only one application will be accepted from each Firewise Community.
- OES will continue their free green waste disposal program. In spring we can apply for large collection containers to be placed in our neighborhood. Members should contact the Firewise Committee if they foresee the need for a bin.
- The FireSafe Council received grant money to provide chipping services for low income or disabled seniors. Road reps should try to identify members who could take advantage of the program.

**Firewise Related:**

- Robin Prechter expressed concern about the gate that has been put up across Indian Shack and that it might restrict evacuation in the event of an emergency. Neighbors have tried to reason with the property owner to no avail.
- Louisa explained that they have a pump and fire hose to make water from their pond available for fire fighting.
- Tom reminded us that the Sheriff's department recommends that people leave early in the event of an evacuation warning and order.

**Neighborhood Party**

Amanda reported that planning for the August 25 party at Christy Barden's Big Yellow Barn is in full swing. Giving neighbors the opportunity to connect and interact is the goal. There will be short messages from Will and Karen. Music will be outside. Food will be potluck. RSVP's are down from last year. Another email announcement will be sent. A flyer will be made available so neighbors can encourage neighbors to come.

**Courthouse Committee**

GCHNA believes that the Pello property would not be suitable for the new courthouse and that the U.S. Forest Service property on Coyote should be the preferred site. GCHNA has provided input to the Ad Hoc group, City Council and Board of Supervisors to make our concerns known. The state Judicial Council will make the final decision. Will, Eileen, and others on the committee will continue to advocate for the Forest Service site. Nevada City has said they'll invest \$300,000 to prepare the Forest Service site.

**Newsletter**

The next newsletter will go out in early September. Articles should be submitted to Ellen by the end of August. They'll include a President's message, Firewise Committee Report including a request for mitigation data, and a recap and photo display of the party. Human interest stories are always welcome.

**Announcements**

Heidi Hall has organized a Town Hall meeting on Aug. 13 from 6-7:30 at the Nevada City Council chambers. Fire insurance concerns will be addressed.

**Next Meeting**

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on October 7 at 7:00 pm in the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Hagan, Secretary