

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 | Issue 10 | November 2014

Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Brekhus

On October 22nd, the Town Council held its annual Town workshop at the Marin Art & Garden Center from 8:30 to 3 pm. The purpose of these workshops are to discuss items that require additional discussion and are hard to fit in during regular Council meetings. Also the workshop offers the Council and the community an opportunity for providing input to staff on potential items that may be considered and used for planning the next fiscal year budget in terms of programs and capital construction items. Many residents participated in matters under discussion, such as the future location of the Ross Recreation pre-school at the Marin Arts & Garden Center and re-

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Highlights from Annual Council Workshop

The Council recently held its annual workshop to discuss potential FY16 and beyond priorities, programs and activities. The Council received an update on the FY15 workplan progress to date, current workload and projected costs for potential new projects. The Council at the workshop gave the following guidance to staff.



- Factor into the FY16 budget planning work to complete a seismic analysis of the Civic Center buildings.
- Factor into the FY16 budget planning work to complete an independent analysis of the Town's fire cost allocation costs as a participant in the Ross Valley Fire Authority (RVFA).
- Continue planning work with St. John's Church to lease additional space for recreation preschool operations.
- Form an ad hoc committee to explore the idea of locating a preschool at Pixie Park in the future.
- Do not replace the Arbor or make major renovations of the Ross Common fields until FY17 at the earliest due to the current drought conditions.
- Identify a firm to investigate the condition of 3 Bear Hut/Natalie Coffin Green Park and improvements to fix the roof.
- Continue the current practice relative to sidewalk repairs that need to be done by residents.

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consideration of the slope calculation methodology for hillside lot properties.

On November 17th, at 6 pm, the Town will hold a meeting at Ross Town Hall to discuss flood, drainage, road pavement and related matters in conjunction with the Town of San Anselmo. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Residents will note there are some public works improvement projects going on around Town, all of which will be completed this month. The Town ordered new street signs, and many of them have already been installed. The signs are brown and include the Town of Ross bear logo.



The Town is also installing new landscaping on the Sir Francis Drake median by Bolinas Avenue. The landscaping being installed is drought resistant. This improvement project was funded from the Town Roadways Fund. ■

Highlights from Council Workshop -

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- The Town will develop a set of landscape standards to be used by applicants for future projects.
- The RVFD Fire Chief will come to a future Community Protection Committee meeting to discuss the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), WUI maps and landscape requirements. Pending committee action, this item is expected to come before the Council in January.
- The Town will consider and evaluate using the Contour Slope Calculation method for future projects.
- Council discussed residents responsibility for maintaining trees in the right-of-way but agreed that when the Town has determined a tree is dead, the resident would not be charged fees by the Town to remove the tree.

As can be seen by the above list, the Council covered a number of items at the workshop, including key public safety services and finances, capital construction and maintenance items, recreation services and community development standards. ■

Stormwater Ordinance Updated

In order to be in compliance with the Phase II Stormwater Permit requirements, a new ordinance was introduced to amend Chapter 12.28 Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention and associated Code chapters (15.24, 18.39, 18.41). The Phase II Stormwater Permit regulates discharges and requires permittees to implement a stormwater management program. Some of the proposed amendments would include:



- Minimize discharges other than storm runoff to storm drains or watercourses;
- Respond to the discharge of spills, prevent & control the discharge of spills to storm drains or watercourses, and prohibit dumping or disposal of materials other than stormwater;
- Require operators of construction sites, new or redeveloped land, and industrial and commercial facilities to install, implement, or maintain appropriate best management practices (BMPs); and
- Require newly developed or redeveloped land to maintain the pre-development stormwater runoff rates and prevent stormwater pollution whenever possible.

For more information, the staff report is available at www.townofross.org.

PLANNING RESULTS



Elise Semonian

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the November Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, click [here](#). The minutes for this meeting will be available at www.townofross.org after adoption at the December 2014 Council meeting. An audio file of this meeting will be posted on the [website](#) the day after the meeting.

Address: 54 Wellington Avenue
Applicant: Michael & Justyna Lloyd
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0

Address: 12 Baywood Avenue
Applicant: Joe Lourdeaux
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0

Address: 35 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Applicant: Sprint/Town of Ross
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0

Address: 12 Brookwood Lane
Applicant: Nigel & Laura Rees
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0 (Kuhl recused)

Address: 1 Skyview
Applicant: Chris & Eileen Sheldon
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0

Address: 40 Fernhill Avenue
Applicant: Collett Family
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0

Winter Preparedness



GET READY CLASS

Household Disaster Preparedness

The Ross Valley Fire Department is sponsoring a Get Ready class on Saturday, November 15, 2014, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon, at Ross Town Hall. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Justin Hanson at jshanson@rossvalleyfire.org.



CERT CLASS

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is a national program to train citizens to help fill the gap between a disaster or emergency, and the arrival of professional services. The training is 18 hours (done in two days), \$45, and is offered throughout Marin County. The next class scheduled is November 15th & 22nd in San Rafael. Go to readymarin.org to register.

HOMEOWNER MAINTENANCE REMINDER

With Winter approaching (and hopefully rain with it), it's time to prepare your ditches, drains, watercourses and creeks on or adjacent to your property to carry all the storm water. It is the homeowner's responsibility to keep the right-of-way in front of your home clean to the edge of the roadway even if there is no watercourse. This means keeping the ditch areas and catch basins on the side of the road clean, particularly on hillside streets.



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Ross Winter Sing/Holiday Tree Lighting - Friday, December 5, 2014

4:30 - 4:55 p.m. Branson Choir

4:55 - 5:00 p.m. Tree Lighting

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Santa Claus appearance via Ross Fire truck

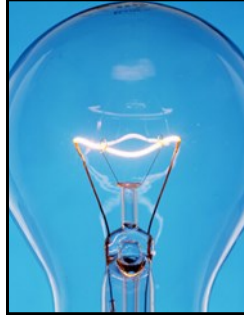


Winter Preparedness

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PREPARING FOR AN EXTENDED POWER OUTAGE

We count on electricity for heat, food, water and medical needs. A power outage is an emergency that often follows another emergency - like an earthquake, fire or winter storm - making it even more important to be prepared in advance. Community preparedness starts at home. If you know your family is prepared at home, you will be better able to help others in your community. Below is a list of things you can do to prepare for a disaster.



- Have flashlights ready in an easily accessible place with batteries checked.
- Acquire and learn how to use a portable generator.
- Create a power outage plan - decide what you can do before, during and after a power outage to minimize the effect on your household. ■

Recreation News



Youth basketball registration for children grades 2 through 4 is currently open. Games will be played at Ross School and Bacich School gyms. Fee includes Sunday clinic, practice, games

& jersey. Parents can register their children individually. Team placement will be determined at clinic.

Youth futsal will be conducted in the Ross School gym. Instruction by Next Step Soccer will provide skill development in this fast paced form of indoor soccer played on a basketball court. Program is for youth 3.5 to 12 years of age.

Register online at www.rossrecreation.org.

Registration for additional winter programs will be available online in the beginning of December.

Dogs on Ross Common Field

The Town has received several complaints regarding dogs running loose on the Ross Commons, specifically the playing field that is used for children's sports. Several eye witnesses have reported dogs defecating on the field, their owners not cleaning up after them, while children are playing nearby.



We know there are many dog owners in Ross and the Ross Common field may look like a great place to let your dog(s) run free, but unfortunately it is not. Ross Municipal Code Section [8.04.161](#) prohibits dogs on Ross Common field stating:

"It is unlawful for the owner or person having control of any dog to allow or permit such dog, under any circumstances and at any time, whether leashed or unleashed, to be upon or within the publicly maintained park area commonly referred to as "The Commons" and more particularly described as that improved lawn area lying completely within the asphalt pathway running the entirety of its southerly and easterly borders, the Ross school's baseball field backstop on its northerly border and the Ross school's playground on its westerly border..."

And Municipal Code Section [8.04.180\(b\)](#) states:

"It is unlawful for the owner or person having control of any animal to suffer or permit such animal to defecate upon any public property unless the person immediately removes and disposes of the feces in a sanitary manner."

Doggie bags are available in the dispenser located along the Post Office parking lot pathway and are provided courtesy of the Ross Property Owners Association. Please use them and clean up after your pet.

Dogs are allowed under the trees on the Common (by the Ross School) in the "dog park". This is an excellent alternative for your pet.

We appreciate everyone doing their part to abide by these regulations. Let's help keep the Ross Common field clean and safe for children to play on. ■

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2014

Nov 11	--	--	Town Hall offices closed Veterans Day
Nov 12	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 13	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 17	6:00	pm	Bolinas Avenue Neighborhood Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 18	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 27-28	--	--	Town Hall offices Thanksgiving closure

DECEMBER 2014

Dec 5	4:30	pm	Ross Holiday Tree Lighting, Ross Common
Dec 9	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 11	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 16	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 22-Dec 30	--	--	Town Hall offices holiday closure (Admin, Building, Public Works, Planning)

JANUARY 2015

Jan 1-2	--	--	Town Hall offices holiday closure
Jan 13*	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall (<i>*note date change</i>)
Jan 15	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 19	--	--	Town Hall offices closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

FEBRUARY 2015

Feb 10	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 12	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 16	--	--	Town Hall offices closed President's Day
Feb 24	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall



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P.O. Box 320	31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Ross, CA 94957	Ross, CA 94957
Administration	415.453.1453 x105
Building	415.453.1453 x106
Planning	415.453.1453 x121
Police	415.453.1453, option 2
Public Works	415.453.1453 x106
Recreation	415.453.6020
Ross Valley Fire	415.258.4686
Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107

www.townofross.org

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