



Public Works and Building Department Report
Council Meeting, June 14, 2012

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE INTERSECTION PROJECT

A site meeting was held on May 21st between the representatives of Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Cal Trans Environmental Review staff and the Town's environmental sub-consultants to address the potential sensitive site excavations. Additional review work needs to be done before the project could proceed to the next phase.

BOLINAS AVENUE DRAINAGE & SAFE PATHWAYS

A joint meeting was held between Towns of Ross and San Anselmo Public Works staff and Harrison Engineering in preparation for the first Bolinas Avenue Advisory Committee meeting to be held on June 19th. This meeting is to serve as the kick off to start the design process for both of the above projects.

TOWNWIDE BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

California Infrastructure Consultancy who was authorized by Council to proceed with their investigative work generated their preliminary report for the Town's various bridges. After a kick off meeting with staff a plan of action was created to address each bridge's conditions on a case-by-case basis.

UPPER ROAD WEST GRADING & DRAINAGE

After many years of lack of response or attention from the owners of the large vacant parcel on top of Upper Road West, we were finally able to bring them to the table and get them started on some major repair and rehabilitation work a few weeks ago. This work consists of clearing the trees and vegetation (for fire road access), re-routing and repairing drainage and grading throughout the site.

TREE PLANTING AROUND TOWN

1. New street trees were planted on:
 - Bolinas Avenue: October Glory Maples
 - Fernhill Avenue: Red Oaks
 - Glenwood Avenue: Lobata Oak and Accolade Elms
 - Lagunitas Avenue: Lobata Oaks

Thank you to the Tree Committee for helping Robert Maccario select the planting locations and contact the affected homeowners.

2. We planted a new 48" boxed Cherry tree in front of the post office. It replaced the Cork Oak that had to be removed because it was killed by borers. The RPOA donated the tree in memory of Eddie Ahrens (1919-1998), the original owner of the Ross Grocery Store. We will be installing the memorial plaque on the rock that is placed in front of the tree.
3. The new 24" boxed Elm trees that will be planted in the Post Office parking lot have been delivered to our Corporation Yard. We are waiting for the approval of the landscape design before we can put the installation out to bid.
4. We have been watering the newly planted street trees with our water trailer. We also have been watering some of the trees we planted last year. We would like to remind the homeowners to please water the street trees in front of their property at least twice a week. The only way the tree canopy will become established is with public support. Staff does not have time to continue watering the trees through the summer.
5. This is the time of year when Dutch Elm Disease (DED) starts to be very active. We have been removing Elm trees that have DED as soon as possible to reduce the risk of spreading to nearby healthy trees. We would like homeowners to be aware of the disease and remove any sick or dead trees on their private properties as soon as possible. Usually a tree removal permit is required from the Planning Department to remove trees on private property. However, we will waive the fee for trees with DED and Sudden Oak Death disease (SOD).

ROSS COMMON

Robert met with the Ross Common landscape maintenance contractor about the sprinkler system. In the new sod area, the system needs adjustments to achieve proper coverage. The lawn was installed in the winter and now with the start of the hot weather, we find areas that are not properly watered. We also found out that vandals had cut some of the controller wires in the valve boxes in the Oak Grove area. One of the pumps was also not working properly. Yaeger Pump made the proper repairs and installed a new water meter. A few years ago we installed a water meter at each well so we can now monitor the amount of water each well produces and easily detect when they do not function properly.

AROUND TOWN

We did some AC patching on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and other streets

MCSTOPPP

The MCSTOPPP meeting held on Monday June 4th focused on the new Phase II permit. We were reminded that the State increased our permit fee by around 35% last year without any warning. There is a possibility that they may increase it again this year by 20% or more.

BUILDING PERMITS, RESALE INSPECTIONS AND BUSINESS LICENSES

In the month of May we issued 10 building permits with a valuation of \$1,589,363 and 4 plan check permits with a future valuation of \$1,071,340. We scheduled 5 new resale inspections and processed 6. We collected \$1,440 in business license fee and \$2,225 in resale inspection fee.

