

MEETING AGENDA
TOWN OF CORTE MADERA
Flood Control Board

Monday March 7, 2016
7:00 P.M.

Corte Madera Town Hall Council Chambers
300 Tamalpais Drive, Corte Madera, CA 94925

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. OPEN FORUM FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS
3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (FEBRUARY 8, 2016)
4. ENGINEERING STAFF UPDATE-Kelly Crowe
5. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Project 15-001, Marina Village/Mariner Cove Storm Drain Improvements
 - a. Presentation by Andre Jadcowski (AN West, Inc.)
 - B. Potential renaming of the Flood Control Board
6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
7. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

1. Draft Minutes of February 8, 2016 meeting

*Note: Per Ordinance No. 821 of the Corte Madera Municipal Code, the **Storm Drainage Special Tax** has a 25 year term, beginning July 1, 1998 and expiring June 30, 2023.*

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Department of Public Works at 415-927-5057. For auxiliary aids or services or other reasonable accommodations to be provided by the Town at or before the meeting, please notify the Department of Public Works at least 3 business days before the meeting in advance of the meeting date. If the Town does not receive timely notification of your reasonable request, the Town may not be able to make the necessary arrangements by the time of the meeting.

FLOOD CONTROL BOARD
FEBRUARY 8, 2016
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
DRAFT MINUTES

Boardmembers Robert Bundy, Chair
Present: Patrick Shea
Ann Thomas

Boardmembers Stephanie Bennett
Absent: David Bell
Bill Carlson

Staff Present: Associate Engineer Kelly Crowe
Council Liaison Sloan Bailey

1. Call to Order

Chair Bundy opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Non-Agenda Items

There were no comments.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes (January 11, 2016)

M/s Thomas/Shea and approved unanimously (Bell, Bennett and Carlson absent) to approve the January 11, 2016 minutes as submitted.

4. Engineering Staff Update

Associate Engineer Crowe reported staff sent comments to AN West regarding the slotted drain project. It was moving along. AN West is addressing those comments and will submit the plans and specifications to staff on February 19th. Staff plans to submit the project to the Council so they can go out to bid. Chair Bundy asked if a representative from AN West would be at next month's Board meeting. Associate Engineer Crowe stated "yes". Some of the comments from staff pertained to tightening up the specs to avoid any change orders. Coordination with other agencies, including MMWD, was included in the comments. Chair Bundy stated the project could include ripping up tree roots and he asked if these trees would be removed. Associate Engineer Crowe stated they would need to consult an arborist. Chair Bundy stated the Town took responsibility for re-doing some of the driveway accesses during the Spindrift project. He thought the homeowner should bear some of the responsibility since they were the ones who made improvements to the driveway access. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he would need to report back on this.

Associate Engineer Crowe reported the Public Works Department has ordered the check valve for the end of Spindrift. This will give staff an opportunity to evaluate how these help with the curb ponding. It should be installed in the next few months. Boardmember Shea asked if Public Works Superintendent Kramer has made a decision about moving a check valve over to Golden Hind and Sea Wolf. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he would check on this but nothing has been done yet. He stated a comprehensive fix needs to happen in the Ebb Tide area.

Associate Engineer Crowe reported the box (the top) at Golden Hind has not been installed. The contractor has made a change in the rebar and it should be in by the next meeting.

Boardmember Thomas asked about the elevation at the end of Mariner Cove (near the pump station at Cay Passage). Associate Engineer Crowe stated it was probably about three feet below the base flood elevation. Chair Bundy stated the tide spills over when it is at 7.2 or 7.3

Associate Engineer Crowe stated AN West would make a presentation at the next meeting about the slotted drain project. The April meeting will include a presentation from Ms. Chris Choo, Watershed Planner with the County of Marin, about sea level rise and the County Vulnerability Study.

5. Discussion Items

A. Future Mariner Cove/Marina Village Curb Ponding Projects

Associate Engineer Crowe gave a PowerPoint presentation that included a ponding map that was generated by the Town wide Drainage Study, Phase I. The areas depicted with the color magenta were the worst areas of ponding and the cyan lines represent the storm drains. He pointed out the areas on Harbor and Echo that AN West is currently working on and the areas where the slotted drains would be installed. He wanted to get an idea from the Board where the worst ponding occurs and the major access points. He noted the map was prepared almost 10 years ago and some differential settlement has occurred. Boardmember Shea stated one of the worst areas he has seen was at 18 Sea Wolf- the catch basin was at the middle of the block and the curb in front of the house was buckling up.

Associate Engineer Crowe stated there were two mechanisms to the flooding- the tidal flooding and the flooding associated with rain events. He referred to the area on Ebb Tide where there is a sunken catch basin and stated there was a lot of water in the street during a high tide coupled with a rain event but not much water during low tide.

Boardmember Shea asked if the Public Works Department could send a vacator machine out to suck up water around the residences that experience serious ponding. Associate Engineer Crowe stated there could be an issue regarding what to do with the storm water (take it to CMSA, etc.). Clean Water Act regulations state that once water is dumped into a tank it could not be subsequently dumped into a storm drain without treatment. Boardmember Shea asked if there was an added expense to take the water to CMSA. This would give the residents some relief. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he was not sure CMSA would accept the water.

Associate Engineer Crowe pointed out and discussed the worst ponding spots on the map. He briefly discussed a project done several years ago along Golden Hind and noted the slotted drains were working very well and the areas were relatively dry after a rain event. He stated future slotted drain projects include an area on Echo; an area on Sea Wolf; a stretch along Prince Royal Passage. He noted they were expensive systems to install (\$125 per lineal foot, not counting catch basins or other ancillary items) and they need to document how they work.

Boardmember Thomas asked about the date of the maps. Associate Engineer Crowe stated they were prepared in 2006. Chair Bundy stated the maps show ponding at different times over several years.

Associate Engineer Crowe asked the Board to discuss the areas of importance so they could come up with a priority list. Chair Bundy stated AN West went forward with projects that the Town could afford with the idea that the Board could identify other critical areas and how to fund the work. Chair Bundy pointed out several priority areas. Associate Engineer Crowe asked the Board if ponding due to a rain event would take priority over ponding caused by the tides.

Associate Engineer Crowe confirmed from the Board that these were the top five areas of concern: 1) Ebb Tide; 2) remainder of Golden Hind; 3) Sea Wolf; 4) Flying Cloud; 5) Sea Mast. He stated timing was the issue and staff would like to begin in the summer.

B. FEMA Flood Map Outreach

Associate Engineer Crowe presented a staff report. Staff sent a letter last November to homes that are designated in the flood plain but have the potential to get out of the flood plain through the Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) process. He has requested a copy of a letter sent by the County and will be sending this letter to everyone affected by the map change. The new FEMA map goes into effect in March. Boardmember Thomas asked if there were several hundred effected properties. Associate Engineer Crowe stated “yes, probably more”. Chair Bundy stated they want to focus on those individuals who have the potential to get out of the flood insurance requirement through a map adjustment. Associate Engineer Crowe stated staff has been working with homeowners and he discussed the LOMA out-as-shown process.

Associate Engineer Crowe stated the new FEMA flood elevation would be 10 based on the North American Vertical Data (NAVD) of 1988. The flood plain was determined by the topography however the mapping was not extremely accurate and there was an error of plus or minus one contour (one foot). He discussed the dilemma regarding multi-family units.

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed the issue regarding flood insurance and stated lenders would start issuing letters to homeowners who are in the flood plain requiring them to buy flood insurance. This would happen about seven days after the map’s effective date of March 16th. Homeowners have 45 days after the date of the letter to get flood insurance.

Boardmember Shea stated homeowners could share the cost of a surveyor if they feel they are not in the flood plain. Associate Engineer Crowe agreed that this was a very good idea.

Boardmember Thomas thanked staff for their efforts on behalf of Corte Madera homeowners.

C. Potential Renaming of the Flood Control Board

Chair Bundy discussed the idea of renaming the Flood Control Board. This would need to be approved by the Town Council. Not many towns have Flood Boards but a number have developed boards or commissions that focus on climate assessment strategies or sustainability strategies. These entities look at the broader issue of climate change and the related issues of sea level rise, managing storm water, reducing the carbon footprint, and energy usage in general. Flooding would remain a high priority for this new board.

Boardmember Shea stated he would need to think about this suggested change. The Flood Board is clearly defined and tied to the Flood Tax. Environmental issues are very important. It would be nice to have Flood Board members from the other side of Town.

Chair Bundy noted the Flood Tax was originally passed prior to the formation of the Flood Board.

Boardmember Thomas stated she thought the Flood Board should remain as is. The issue of climate change involves a lot of science and a lot of the policy mandates are being driven by the State. Flooding is a very real problem that they can do something about. The issue of climate change is trendy and a broad mandate.

Chair Bundy stated he would rather not see another Board or Commission created for Corte Madera and would like to see things consolidated. He would like to discuss this when the other Boardmembers were present.

5. Future Agenda Items

Chair Bundy stated the following items would be on a future agenda: 1) Presentation by AN West of recommended slotted drain projects; 2) Continued discussion about renaming the Flood Board.

6. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.