

MidCoast Community Council Public Works Committee
Minutes for December 4, 2002

April Vargas called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Present were Larry Ross, Richard Sadleir, George Walsh and Jeff Fanning. We were joined intermittently by Leonard Woren. April reported that she had received a call from Montara resident Arthur Hoffmayer inquiring about the County practice of lining drainage ditches with asphalt. He was wondering about more environmentally friendly alternatives which would not limit aquifer recharge from the water collected in the ditches. April suggested that he research the issue further which he said he intended to do.

Larry Ross mentioned the need for traffic control on 3rd, 4th and 6th Streets in Montara. The group discussed the traffic control measure current under review by San Mateo County, namely dips and modified bumps. Richard commented that the existing dip on 5th St. east of Main has the affect of slowing traffic. Questions were raised about who pays for these speed deterrents, the County the landowners or a combination of both?

Regarding tree removal there were several comments that dangerous trees should be removed and replaced with species that can better withstand the weather in the area. There was interest in the progress of the County's tree maintenance assessment district pilot project in the unincorporated area near Menlo Park.

On the topic of drainage, concerns were expressed about the impacts of impervious surfaces. Keeping the water on individual properties and out to the public ROW is a priority. Both Larry and Jeff briefly discussed percolation pits that each had installed on his respective property. Jeff commented that the County has required that he submit a drainage plan before he can receive approval to build on his lot. Richard speculated that 8 to 9 feet would be a sufficient depth for a pit and cautioned that well water should not be used for consumption if it is not drawn from a depth of at least 20 feet. Jeff asked when his plans will be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Committee.

To better determine the priorities of the group, each was asked to list his PW concerns in order of urgency. Richard, Larry and Jeff all listed traffic safety as number one followed by drainage and roadway improvements, and trees. George listed drainage, wetland area designation and lack of County maintenance. Larry also mentioned the need for the Committee to be proactive and encourage community involvement in PW issues.

Larry recounted the problems with creek flow and debris clearance being experienced by the Miller family in eastern Montara. He will talk to them about the importance of developing a better understanding of what responsibilities are the County's and which are the property owner's. George asked about records of flooding in the past in the Montara area and whether the flooding is worse now than it has been in years past. He was curious about the number of absentee owners of properties in Montara. In answer to his question about why more property owners who are subject to flooding do not attend PW meetings, April suggested that he contact MCC member and east Montara resident Karen Wilson to see if she has a list of affected property owners who can be invited to our attend meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45pm.