



CHRISTMAS TREE HILL NRG
www.cthnrg.org / cthnrg@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA
Sunday, June 27, 2021 | In Menke Park

4:00 PM Call to order. Welcome and introductions.

1. Welcome new Block Captain Conor Granahan – Zone 6 Block 3.
2. Service recognition: Mark Levie.
3. Appointment of new co-chair.
4. 'Trailer & Tools' Grant application to Corte Madera Community Foundation – discussion.
5. CTH Firewise Application is pending: *"Your application has been received and is in review. We have had several applications coming in from CA and it takes time to go through them. Once your approved you will then receive an email that will let you know. NFPA Wildfire Division".*
6. Evacuation signage distribution.
7. Summer wildfire evacuation drill – discussion.
8. November drill – suggestions/ideas for consideration.
9. Defensible space issues:
 - CM Planning Commission – refer to attached email from Debra Sartell and response from officials.
 - Top 10 list of fire hazards on the Hill.
10. Other / new business.

5:00 PM Adjourn

Attachments:

- Updated radio call sign and ZC/BC contact lists.
Please print out and place with your radio or in your clipboard.

JULY RADIO EXERCISE:

July 11, 2021	Sunday	4:00 – 4:30 PM
----------------------	---------------	-----------------------

NEXT MEETING DATE:

August 29, 2021 | 4:00 – 5:00 PM in Menke Park

On Jun 18, 2021, at 4:02 PM, Debra Sartell <debrasartell@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Town of Corte Madera Planning Commission,

Thank you for the video zoom conference we attended last week on the new construction at 317 Redwood in Corte Madera, it was both enlightening and disturbing.

To give you a background on our situation with this property and the owner Dan Morgan, we first attended a meeting back in 2017 at the Architects office in Larkspur and at that time we saw that the project depended on the removal of the Redwood. We could not understand how all these years later the design plans remain the same as if he has had the nod from the start to remove the Redwood tree. It has been our understanding and our experience that Heritage trees are protected unless an arborist has declared them diseased or infested. But it became clear at the meeting that some of those on this commission have no problem with removing the Redwood tree on the property, even though the arborist has said the tree is healthy. Thus, we surmise this is how the enthusiasm continued with the same design. Very disappointing to say the least.

But the biggest shock of the evening was to discover what appeared to be a disconnect of the commission to what is happening in Marin and especially what is happening here on Christmas Tree Hill regarding fire danger. I have been with the CTH NRG since 2017, I have volunteered countless hours and energy along with many others to hand out flyers, talk to the Fire Marshal, educate our neighbors regarding fire danger and the most important factor of that is creating defensible space around every home. Finding out that in a design review on new construction defensible space is not the most top priority on everyone's mind was one thing, but to encourage using planting vegetation in the area closest to the home as a solution to privacy issues is unbelievable. It's a slap in the face to those of us working hard trying to keep safe here on the hill. It became very apparent that we are putting Band-Aids on old codes and policies that continue to be practiced to this day.

Is this planning commission aware that many people on CTH have lost their home owners insurance because of vegetation too close to their property. Just last year our insurance company sent out an independent survey representative to determine whether they should drop us. I had to explain to this insurance representative that the out of control, overgrown property at 317 Redwood was not a part of our property and that I contact the Fire Marshal every year to request that he enforce the defensible space requirement for the property owner, Dan Morgan, to clean/clear the waist high grass because of fire danger. When neighbors are close and do not create a defensible space for both their home and their neighbors we will all suffer the consequences. We are only as safe as our neighbors are. Christmas Tree Hill is unique in that it is a large hill that backs up to wild land WUI and when I wrote our Mayor, Eli Beckman an email trying to understand just exactly how vulnerable we really are here on Christmas Tree Hill this is what he wrote back to me, "On CTH specifically, in particular the danger comes from the way the neighborhood (which is among the oldest in the area) was developed: many houses among dense trees, narrow and winding roads etched into steep hillsides and critically only one main point of egress in the event of an emergency." If the changes do not start with the planning commission then where do they start? This is all not to mention the huge drought we are in at this very moment in time. Everything is dried out and dying, we're unable to water our landscapes and therefore we are even more vulnerable to fire danger. Our property at 10 Hillpath St. backs up against 317 Redwood Ave, a disaster area of dead tree logs on the ground, several dying 60' acacias, a 60' acacia that has fallen into the 70' Redwood tree and waist high dead grass. As a town we need to figure out a new strategy for new construction and planting, especially on CTH. As my tree guy said when he came out to clean up our trees, "We are all going to pay a high price for our wood fences and plants for privacy. The fire will follow these paths." We need to rely on our Town Council and Commission to first of all have knowledge of what is going on and secondly create a new set of up to date standards and codes to build and live by.

CTHNRG has worked hard this year having just completed the application of becoming a Fire Wise community to continue to help protect those of us on the Hill from being dropped by our home owner's insurance and to prevent fires on the hill and to establish escape plans in case of fire and other emergencies. I have been told that Hillpath is not scheduled to be cleared up until sometime in August, does that mean we just hope no fire event happens until after that date? I've also been told that neighbors whose properties are adjacent to pathways are supposed to keep them clear, but this does not happen here along lower Hillpath and without enforcement or consequences it will always be an issue. Now that

fire season is practically all year round and we are faced with water shortages, why is clearing pathways and overgrown lots not a top priority that takes place more than once a year? How can we make it a priority? We want to help, we stand poised to help, but we need the force of the town behinds us.

IT IS TIME that the Town of Corte Madera, the Fire Department, the Police Dept and the residents got together to solve these issues. Currently everything feels disjointed. After the meeting with the planning commission we felt completely dejected. Is putting Band-Aids on old codes and old policies going to continue until we have a huge fire and lose this community? That would be a loss to large to fathom both financially and emotionally to our town.

IT IS TIME we got the whole community involved. Perhaps social media or the press is the best way to reach out to all of us so vulnerable on the hill. How many more fires will it take? How close to home does it need to be before change takes place? The fires have grown worse every year and our town could be a leader in change. We cannot just promote defensible space after the fact. It needs to happen at the start of every new project with the planning commission. The planning commission, needs to make this a priority to protect all residents by helping to solve the problem and preempt future serious fire issues.

Those of us that live on CTH are asking for the towns help and support in creating codes that will protect us. We are asking for enforceable restrictions, enforceable defensible space for everyone. As I stated above, we are all only as safe as our neighbors.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you regarding steps forward.

Debra Sartell & Darrell Hawthorne

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ruben Martin <rmartin@centralmarinfire.org>
Subject: Re: Meeting with Planning Commission on new construction on 317 Redwood
Date: June 21, 2021 at 4:20:30 PM PDT

Hi Debra,

I want to thank you for reaching out regarding your backyard neighbor's property located at 317 Redwood. I went by to look at the rear yard from Hill Path this morning, and we will be reaching out to Mr. Morgan regarding the dead grasses and any low hanging tree limbs and request that he maintain the property.

In regards to your concerns with Mr. Morgan either re-modeling and/or rebuilding the home on the property; the new residence will meet all of the latest 2019 WUI Building and Fire Code requirements for construction methods and materials for homes located within a designated WUI Zone. The project will also require a Vegetation Management Plan (landscape plan on steroids) to be submitted and reviewed by the fire department to make sure that they are not installing hazardous vegetation near the new building. The project as a whole will actually make your property, the property of your neighbors, and other properties on CTH safer. I hope that this will help address some of your concerns with the property at 317 Redwood.

Respectfully,

Ruben Martin

CTH NRG | ZONE COORDINATORS & BLOCK CAPTAINS' CONTACT LIST
Updated June 2021

Zone	Block	Zone Coordinators	Block Captains	Email	Cell Phone
1	1	Debra Sartell 415-722-6810 debrasartell@aol.com	Mark Levie	mwl120600@aol.com	330-289-8305
1	2		Scott Thorpe	scottthorpe@gmail.com	401-225-6606
1	3		VACANT *	debrasartell@aol.com	415-722-6810
1	4		VACANT *	debrasartell@aol.com	415-722-6810
1	5		VACANT *	debrasartell@aol.com	415-722-6810
1	6		Debra Sartell	debrasartell@aol.com	415-722-6810
1	7		Liz Miller	lizmiller315@yahoo.com	415-686-0667
1	8		Cynthia England	cengland565@gmail.com	415-847-5320
2	1	Brandon Hemley 415-265-4918 brandon.hemley@gmail.com	Elizabeth D'Orazio	elizabeth.dorazio296@gmail.com	415-847-4939
2	2		Nick Kenig	nick_kenig@yahoo.com	203-247-6455
2	3		Steve Silver	747Steve@gmail.com	650-520-3193
2	4		Brandon Hemley	brandon.hemley@gmail.com	415-265-4918
2	5		Chas Voorhis	chas@abacusbinc.com	415-308-1436
2	6		Matt Kaufman	matthew.s.kaufmann@gmail.com	949-413-6398
3	1	Linda Meier 239-560-5055 lmeier906@gmail.com	VACANT *	lmeier906@gmail.com	239-560-5055
3	2		Larry Garvin	lgarvin716@gmail.com	415-385-6166
3	3		VACANT *	lmeier906@gmail.com	239-560-5055
3	4		Linda Meier	lmeier906@gmail.com	239-560-5055
3	5		Mark Rudy	mrudy356@gmail.com	415-924-4218
3	6		Soren Jensen	sorentjensen@yahoo.com	415-200-5894
3	7		Joe Harrington	j.k.h@sbcglobal.net	415-420-4571
3	8		VACANT *	lmeier906@gmail.com	239-560-5055
4	1	Beth O'Neill 415-948-9486 bethoneill17@gmail.com	Cheryl Kosmas	ckosmas@outlook.com	415-203-4395
4	2		Beth O'Neill	bethoneill17@gmail.com	415-948-9486
4	3		Deborah Gallegos	dgallegos@berkeley.edu	505-231-3333
4	4		VACANT *	bethoneill17@gmail.com	415-948-9486
5	1	Leslie Cunningham 415-847-9222 lespt2@gmail.com	Mariellen Stern	sea-hi@pacbell.net	415-606-2675
5	2		Leslie Cunningham	lespt2@gmail.com	415-847-9222
5	3		Ken Ishiguro	kenishiguro@gmail.com	415-755-3206
5	4		Stephen Kaplan	stevekaplanconsulting@gmail.com	650-387-7026
5	5		Ann Bentley	annbentley845@gmail.com	415 732 9874
5	6		Anita Bock	anitambock@gmail.com	415-238-2195
5	7		Jason Price	pricecheck83@yahoo.com	267-718-7002
5	8		Jason Price	pricecheck83@yahoo.com	267-718-7002
6	1	Connor Turnbull 415-497-1971 connorturnbull@hotmail.com	Al Williams	Williams218@comcast.net	415-601-3151
6	2		Al Williams	Williams218@comcast.net	415-601-3151
6	3		Jean Schulz	jeanschulz07@gmail.com	415-497-3531
6	4		Conor Granahan	conor.granahan@gmail.com	650-576-2719
6	5		Connor Turnbull	connorturnbull@hotmail.com	415-497-1971
7	1	Mark Brooks 650-825-0425 smokeythedog@me.com	Rebecca Shunk	shunkrebecca@gmail.com	415-377-2750
7	2		Kevin Woodall	kcnoles@sbcglobal.net	415-235-8542
7	3		VACANT *	smokeythedog@me.com	650-825-0425

***NOTE:** ZCs serve as interim BCs for blocks that have no BC

CTH NRG RADIO CALL SIGNS (in red) Updated June 2021

CTH 1		Anita Bock, Chair
CTH 2		Mark Levie, Co-Chair
CTH 3		Mark Brooks (Zone 7 Coordinator)
CTH 4		Nate Blomgren
ZONE	BLOCK	NAME (do not call names – only call signs)
Zone 1	Block 1	Mark Levie
Zone 1	Block 2	Scott Thorpe
Zone 1	Block 3	NO BC – Interim Debra Sartell
Zone 1	Block 4	NO BC – Interim Christy Smith
Zone 1	Block 5	NO BC – Interim Gina Ponticello
Zone 1	Block 6	Debra Sartell - Zone 1 Coordinator
Zone 1	Block 7	Liz Miller
Zone 1	Block 8	Cynthia England
Zone 2	Block 1	Elizabeth D'Orazio
Zone 2	Block 2	Nick Kenig
Zone 2	Block 3	Steve Silver
Zone 2	Block 4	Brandon Hemley - Zone 2 Coordinator
Zone 2	Block 5	Chas Voorhis
Zone 2	Block 6	Matt Kaufman
Zone 3	Block 1	NO BC – interim Linda Meier
Zone 3	Block 2	Larry Garvin
Zone 3	Block 3	NO BC – interim Linda Meier
Zone 3	Block 4	Linda Meier - Zone 3 Coordinator
Zone 3	Block 5	Mark Rudy
Zone 3	Block 6	Soren Jensen
Zone 3	Block 7	Joe Harrington
Zone 3	Block 8	NO BC – interim Linda Meier
Zone 4	Block 1	Cheryl Kosmas
Zone 4	Block 2	Beth O'Neill - Zone 4 Coordinator
Zone 4	Block 3	Deborah Gallegos
Zone 4	Block 4	NO BC – interim Beth O'Neill
Zone 5	Block 1	Mariellen Stern
Zone 5	Block 2	Leslie Cunningham - Zone 5 Coordinator
Zone 5	Block 3	Ken Ishiguro
Zone 5	Block 4	Stephen Kaplan
Zone 5	Block 5	Ann Bentley
Zone 5	Block 6	Anita Bock
Zone 5	Block 7	Jason Price
Zone 5	Block 8	Jason Price
Zone 6	Block 1	Al Williams
Zone 6	Block 2	Al Williams
Zone 6	Block 3	Jean Schulz
Zone 6	Block 4	Conor Granahan
Zone 6	Block 5	Connor Turnbull - Zone 6 Coordinator
Zone 7	Block 1	Rebecca Shunk
Zone 7	Block 2	Kevin Woodall Back-up John Jackson
Zone 7	Block 4	NO BC/interim Mark Brooks Zone 7 Coordinator
CTH CERT 1		Cinda van Lierop
CTH MED 1		Jordan Rinker

- **CTH NRG:**
CHANNEL 29
- **CTH COMMAND**
When activated
- **CERT COMMAND**
CHANNEL 15|15
- **CHAPMAN NODE**
CHANNEL 16|4
For assistance from neighboring NRGs and CERT
- Use only call signs & not names
- Always identify yourself by your call sign.
- Always ask “do you read me” before transmitting a long message.
- After your message or report is relayed, ask “did you copy?”
- When signing off say “(call sign) clear or out”
- Speak clearly, slowly & succinctly
- Wait 1-2 seconds after pressing the PTT button before you talk, & do not forget to release PTT button after talking.
- Only one person can send a message at a time.
- Follow 2-way radio protocols

*Medical field unit located in Zone 5
CTH MED 5

*Medical field unit located at Menke Park
CTH MENKE MED