

**CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, December 10, 2015
Tour of Inspection – 2:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting – 3:30 p.m.**

City Hall, Council Chambers
East side of Monte Verde St. between Ocean & 7th Avenues
Carmel, California

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

COMMISSION MEMBERS: DAVID REFUERZO – CHAIR
 KAREN FERLITO – VICE CHAIR
 KATHY BANG
 JEFF BARON
 MAGGIE EATON

TOUR OF INSPECTION

Shortly after 2:30 p.m., the Commission will leave the Council Chambers for an on-site Tour of Inspection of all properties listed on this agenda. The Tour may also include projects previously approved by the City and not on this agenda. Prior to the beginning of the Tour of Inspection, the Commission may eliminate one or more on-site visits. The public is welcome to follow the Commission on its tour of the determined sites. The Commission will return to the Council Chambers at **3:30 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

1. NE Guadalupe St. and 2nd Ave.
2. SW Monte Verde St. and 2nd Ave.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Jesse Garibay, Streets Supervisor
Jaime Aquino, Senior Maintenance Worker - Mason

APPEARANCES

Thank you for attending the meeting. Anyone wishing to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Commission, may do so now. Please state the matter on which you wish to speak. Matters not appearing on the Commission's agenda will not receive action at this meeting but may be referred to staff for a future meeting. Presentations will be limited to three minutes, or as established by the Commission. Persons are not required to give their name or address, but it is helpful for speakers to state their name in order that the Secretary may identify them.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration of the Minutes for the November 12, 2015 Regular Meeting

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Consideration of an application to remove a 20" diameter coast redwood tree on City property due to damage to a driveway and the street adjacent to the tree. The tree is located in front of the home at the northwest corner of Guadalupe St. and Second Ave. The applicant is Dieter Back, and the owner is the City of Carmel.
3. Consideration of an application to remove a 40" diameter Monterey pine on City property due to concerns of damage to a retaining wall and threat to adjacent homes. The tree is located in front of the home at the southwest corner of Monte Verde St. and Second Ave. The applicant is Michael Phillips, and the owner is the City of Carmel.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

4. Report on the Status of the North Dunes Habitat Restoration Project
5. Verbal report from the Centennial ad hoc committees
6. Review and Adopt the Regular Meeting Calendar for 2016

REPORTS FROM STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

7. City Forester's Report
 - A. November tree data
 - B. Parks activities
 - C. Beach activities
 - D. Future agenda items
8. Public Works Director's Report
 - A. Updates on City Council and Planning Commission Items
 - B. Other Items of Interest to the Commission
9. Commissioner Announcements

ADJOURNMENT

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Forest and Beach Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the Planning and Building Department located at City Hall, on Monte Verde between Ocean and 7th Avenues during normal business hours.

The next regular meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission will be:

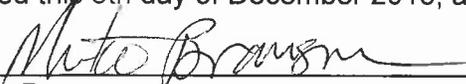
January 14, 2016
Tour of Inspection – as required
3:30 p.m. – Regular Agenda

The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Telecommunication's Device for the Deaf /Speech Impaired (TDD) number is 1-800-735-2929.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Mike Branson, City Forester, for the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing notice was posted at the Carmel-by-the-Sea City Hall bulletin board, at the Harrison Memorial Library on Ocean and Lincoln Avenues, the Carmel Post Office, and distributed to members of the media on December 3, 2015.

Dated this 3th day of December 2015, at the hour of 4:00 p.m.



Mike Branson
City Forester

**CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION - MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Baron
Michael Carter
Karen Ferlito – Vice Chair
David Refuerzo – Chair

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathy Bang

STAFF PRESENT: Rob Mullane, AICP, Public Works Director
Mike Branson, City Forester
Matt Feisthamel, Assistant City Forester
Marc Wiener, Acting Community Planning &
Building Director
Kelley Green, Tree Care Specialist
Michael Feher, Maintenance Worker
Leslie Fenton, Executive Assistant

PLEGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members of the audience joined the Commission in a Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF FOREST, PARKS, AND BEACH STAFF

Mike Branson, City Forester, introduced Tree Care Specialist Kelley Green and Maintenance Worker Michael Feher.

Commissioner Ferlito thanked the staff for the assistance with the Arbor Day Event.

APPEARANCES

Jeanne McCulloch appeared before the Commission to speak against the Nuisance Ordinance passed by the City Council. She would rather see a limit on the number of fires allowed and citations for violators.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration of the minutes for the October 8, 2015 Regular meeting.

Commissioner Ferlito noted that a couple of typos need to be addressed. Staff will correct these.

Commissioner BARON moved **to approve the minutes for the October 8, 2015 Regular meeting**, seconded by EATON and **carried** by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Baron, Eaton, Ferlito
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Refuerzo
ABSENT: Bang

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

The Chair announced that he would be reordering the agenda items to better accommodate speakers in the audience. The items under Orders of Business would have the following order: #5, #4, #2, #3 and #6. The Commission had no objections.

5. Receive a Report from the Friends of Carmel Forest on their Carmel Centennial Project.

Maria Sutherland from Friends of Carmel Forest presented the group's 2016 Carmel Centennial idea "Centennial Trees – A Celebration of Carmel's Forest." They will be creating a private fund and gathering donations to assist in sustaining Carmel's Forest; goal of planting 100 trees; several donation levels with specific benefits at each level with plantings to begin in January 2016. The group will meet with Mr. Branson to discuss best locations for plantings on public property.

Chair Refuerzo opened the item to public comment at 4:02 p.m. Kelley Green, Tree Care Specialist, spoke about the planting of trees on public property, and Matt Feisthamel, Assistant City Forester, spoke about the possibility of Friends of Carmel Forest contracting with a company to water all of these new trees. There being no other appearances, the item was closed at 4:03 p.m.

4. Discussion of Commission Projects to Celebrate Carmel's Centennial.

Mr. Branson presented the staff report.

Chair Refuerzo opened the item to public comment at 4:29 p.m. There being no appearances, the item was closed at 4:29 p.m.

Chair Refuerzo announced his appointment of Commissioners Ferlito and Baron to an Ad-Hoc Committee to look at the restoration scope and design for four segments of landscaping along the Scenic Road Pathway.

Chair Refuerzo announced his appointment of Commissioners Eaton and Refuerzo to an Ad-Hoc Committee to look at the replacement of the Carmel Holiday tree at Junipero and Ocean Avenues.

2. Provide input on the Permit Standards for Installation of Artificial Turf in Carmel.

Marc Wiener, Acting Community Planning and Building Director, presented the staff report and discussed the “Permitting Standards for Synthetic Grass/Artificial Turf.”

Chair Refuerzo opened the item to public comment at 4:53 p.m.

Speaker #1: Maria Sutherland spoke about material specifications for artificial turf that should be considered.

There being no other appearances, the item was closed at 4:54 p.m.

Chair Refuerzo asked each Commissioner to give their comments on the proposed standards.

Commissioner Ferlito:

- Look at cities of Glendale and Beverly Hills for policy examples

Commissioner Eaton:

- Educational opportunity for alternatives
- Explain why restrictions are in place
- Residents should be required to maintain the turf
- Drainage standards
- Greenest alternative should be used, environmentally-sensitive product
- Protect trees
- Need to follow-up after installation and periodic checks to see how turf is holding up to the elements

Commissioner Baron:

- Standards look good
- Design Guidelines prohibit artificial turf in any visible space
- Turf and base material should be permeable
- Prohibit materials that are damaging to Monterey Bay

Commissioner Refuerzo:

- Green alternatives
- Site coverage standard should be applied where usable

3. Provide Recommendations on Priorities for Implementation of the Shoreline Assessment Report.

Mike Branson, City Forester, presented the staff report.

Chair Refuerzo opened the item to public comment at 5:46 p.m.

Speaker #1: Skip Lloyd, of Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve (FoMTNP), stated that the Marshall Plan funds should be used to bring the invasive plant removal funds back to the original amount and to cover any budget overages on the Mission Trail Nature Preserve (MTNP) Mountain View Entrance project.

There being no other appearances, the item was closed at 5:51 pm.

Chair Refuerzo asked the Commissioners to prioritize the Shoreline Assessment Implementation projects on a scale of 1-3, with the results noted as follows:

ITEM	EATON	BARON	FERLITO	REFUERZO
Landscape Barriers	2	1	1	1
Landscape Renovation/Bluff Cuts	3	3	1	1
Stairway Renovation/Repairs	1	1	1	2
Pathway Renovation	2	2	2	2
Sand Redistribution	3	2	2	1
Beach Profiles	3	3	2	3
Repair and Maintenance of Shoreline Structures	1	2	1	2
Storm Water Infrastructure Maintenance/Repair	2	3	2	3
Forest Enhancement	1	2	1	1
Mission Trail Nature Preserve	2	1	1	2

6. Review and Comment on the Department Work Plan for 2016.

Rob Mullane, Public Works Director, presented the staff report.

Chair Refuerzo opened the item to public comment at 7:07 p.m.

Speaker #1: Skip Lloyd stated that Public Works staff have been working with FoMTNP to clean-up debris; Mountain View entrance to MTNP should be moved up in priority; and he would like staff to provide a list of projects for which the FoMTNP could raise funds.

There being no other appearances, the item was closed at 7:12 pm.

The Commission was complimentary of the work plan and the projects that staff undertook in 2015, and the projects identified for future implementation.

REPORTS FROM STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

7. City Forester’s Report

- A. October tree data
 - 31 trees removed

- B. Parks Activities
 - Large eucalyptus tree at the Northwest Corner of Ocean and San Antonion was recently pruned, with a very good result
 - Dead trees in MTNP have been removed

- C. Beach Activities
 - Sand redistribution was recently completed for safety and access concerns at Del Mar, 8th & 9th stairways, and the sand ramp.
 - Signs and barriers for beach no-fire zones continue to be checked on a regular basis

Commissioner Baron left the meeting at 7:17 pm.

8. Public Works Director's Report

- A. Verbal update on the status of the Beach Fire Management
 - The Police Department reported that there were no fires over the Veteran's Day holiday.
 - Staff is working with Coastal Commission on a revised pilot beach fires management program that will have propane fires only.
 - Beach fire issue to be heard at December Coastal Commission meeting, tentative dates are December 9, 10, and 11. Staff will keep Commission updated.

- B. Updates on City Council and Planning Commission Items
 - November City Council meeting – 1st Reading of Ordinance – wood fires on beach a nuisance per Title 8 Health & Safety
 - Resignation of City Administrator Doug Schmitz and appointment of Chief Mike Calhoun as Interim City Administrator.
 - Downtown smoking ban item continued to a future meeting.
 - Carmel Sand project appeal heard and continued to a future meeting.

- C. Other items of interest to the Commission
 - Public Works employee Jesse Garibay has been promoted to Street Supervisor.
 - Commissioner training tentatively scheduled for January

Chair Refuerzo opened the item to public comment at 7:34 p.m.

Speaker #1: Skip Lloyd stated that Public Works and Forestry are dealing with now are items that have been delayed in the past and passed along his thanks to Mike and other staff for their support.

There being no other appearances, the item was closed at 7:35 pm.

Due to the possible conflict between the December 10th Forest & Beach Commission Regular Meeting and the Coastal Commission Meeting to discuss beach fires. The Commission chose

December 17, 2015 at 3:30 pm as an alternative meeting date. Staff will keep the Commission members apprised of the Coastal Commission meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Leslie Fenton, Executive Assistant

ATTEST:

David Refuerzo, Chair



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
Forest and Beach Commission Report
December 10, 2015

To: Chair Refuerzo and Forest & Beach Commissioners
From: Mike Branson, City Forester
Subject: Tree Removal (Public)
Block: 16; Lots: parts of 17 & 19
NW Corner of Guadalupe St. and 2nd Ave. (on Guadalupe frontage)
Applicant: Dieter Back
Owner: City of Carmel

Site Condition:

The site for this application is within the public right-of-way adjacent to the driveway of the applicant's property on Guadalupe St. The redwood tree is growing in a relatively small open space that is surrounded by pavement. The street has a slight slope to the south, and there is a lifting of the pavement that is most likely due to tree roots. The driveway appears to be lifted about 3 inches above the adjacent asphalt driveway apron and street. There is a large surface root that is growing in the direction of the driveway, but no roots are visible in the area that is being lifted. Another large root is growing toward the neighboring driveway to the north, but no structural damage is apparent. The applicant has indicated that the lifting is causing water to be directed into his garage rather than down the street.

Size and species of tree(s) requested for removal/pruning:

Remove one coast redwood (20") in the public right-of-way.

Health and condition of tree requested for removal:

The tree appears to be in good overall condition without any significant insect, disease, or structural problems. There are several surface roots that are visible around the area where the tree is growing.

Previous requests and decisions:

None.

Reason for request and Description of Project:

The applicant is concerned about the tree roots lifting his driveway and the street.

The importance of the tree(s) to the urban forest in the area:

The tree contributes to the upper canopy of the forest for this neighborhood.

Size and species of tree(s) that are to be preserved:

N/A

Impacts construction may have on trees that are to be preserved and suggested mitigation:

N/A

Options:

1. Approve the application.
2. Do not approve the application.
3. Postpone consideration.

Staff Recommendations:

Option #2. Do not approve the application. The tree is in good health and condition at this time. I recommend the applicant repair his driveway and allow staff to assess any tree roots that may be causing any problems to the property. It is possible that judicious root pruning can resolve the current and potential future damage. The City will repair the root damage to the street in the future.

If the application is approved, I recommend the applicant plant a new 15-gallon lower canopy in the same area as the current tree, with the City making some improvements to allow a better growing site for a tree, and plant a new 5-gallon upper canopy tree south of the driveway in a new tree planting space.

Attachment

1. Tree Removal Permit Application for Back

CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
P.O. Box "SS"
Carmel, CA 93921
Ph: (831) 620-2070/FAX: 831-624-2132

Date Received 11-9-15
Application Fee \$ 32.51
Receipt # 03808

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO REMOVE OR PRUNE TREES
NO CONSTRUCTION

Location of property: GUADALUPE & 2nd St. N.W. CORNER, CARMEL
Block: 16 Lot: 17+19

Name of Property Owner: DIETER BACK Name of Applicant/Contractor: DIETER BACK

Mailing Address P.O. Box 444 Mailing Address: _____
CARMEL, CA 93921

Phone #: 624-4452 Phone #: _____

WHO WILL BE REMOVING/PRUNING THE TREE(S): _____
City Business License #: _____
(PLEASE NOTE IF TREE(S) ARE ON CITY OR PRIVATE PROPERTY)

Number, size and species of tree(s) to be removed: 1 REDWOOD TREE
LOCATED ON CITY PROPERTY

Number, size and species of limbs/roots to be removed: _____

Reason for removal or pruning: LIFTING UP CONCRETE DRIVEWAY
TO GARAGE AS WELL ROAD RIGHT OF WAY.

You will be notified in writing the date and time that your request is scheduled for a hearing. If you or your representative is unable to attend the hearing, your application will be tabled. You may reschedule by contacting the Secretary to the Forest and Beach Commission at (831) 620-2070. You may waive your right to speak at the hearing and authorize the Forest and Beach Commission to act on your request in your absence by signing on the following line:
Dieter Back Date: 9 NOVEMBER 2015

A SITE PLAN **MUST** ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION AND **SHOW** THE FOLLOWING:

1. Location, size and species of ALL trees on the lot.
2. Location and species of tree(s)/limb(s) to be removed or pruned
3. Footprint of the structure.
4. Location of areas for tree replanting - The City has adopted Design Review Guidelines which include a minimum tree density per lot. Please review the attached Policy and indicate on the site plan where you intend to plant trees necessary to comply with this guideline.

- Any decision of the Forest and Beach Commission is based on information submitted with this application - PLEASE BE ACCURATE.
- NO WORK IS PERMITTED until you have picked up your permit for tree work - The Permit must be posted on the job site when work is being performed.

Owner's Signature Dieter Back Date: 9 NOV. 2015
Agent for Owners: _____ Date: _____

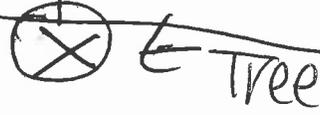
INCOMPLETE APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED

RECEIVED
NOV 9 2015
City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Planning & Building Dept.

Block 16

Lot
17/19

2nd



GUADALUPE

2nd

RECEIVED

NOV 09 2015
City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Planning & Building Dept.

001603

32.51

.00

Paid By.: DIETER BACK

RECEIVED

NOV 09 2015
City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Planning & Building Dept.



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
Forest and Beach Commission Report
December 10, 2015

To: Chair Refuerzo and Forest & Beach Commissioners
From: Mike Branson, City Forester
Subject: Tree Removal (Public)
Block: II; Lot: 40
SW corner of Monte Verde St. and 2nd Ave. (on Monte Verde)
Applicant: Michael Phillips
Owner: City of Carmel

Site Condition:

The site for this application is within the public right-of-way adjacent to the applicant's property on Monte Verde St. The 40" diameter Monterey pine tree is growing in a relatively narrow, 7-foot wide open space that is parallel and basically level with the street, but about 4 feet above the level of the applicant's house. The base of the east side of the tree is about 2-3 feet from the top edge of a 4-foot high Carmel stone wall. The house is about 6 feet from the base of the tree with a pathway along the house and the 4-foot tall Carmel stone retaining wall between the tree and the pathway. The wall turns and terminates at the southern edge of wood steps that connect the street to the house. There are many visible cracks in the stone wall near where the tree is and farther away from the tree. On the north side of the steps there is an old pine stump about 33 inches in diameter.

Size and species of trees(s) requested for removal/pruning:

Remove one Monterey pine (40") in the public right-of-way.

Health and condition of tree requested for removal:

The tree appears to be in good overall condition without any significant insect, disease, or structural problems. The trunk has a slight lean to the southeast, and most of the tree canopy originates from the south and east side of the tree trunk. The lack of canopy on the north side of the trunk may be due to former competition for growing space with the tree that is now a stump.

Previous requests and decisions:

None.

Reason for request and Description of Project:

The applicant is concerned about safety issues regarding the retaining wall, and with a possible risk to the neighboring homes.

The importance of the tree(s) to the urban forest in the area:

The tree contributes to the upper canopy of the forest for this neighborhood.

Size and species of tree(s) that are to be preserved:

N/A

Impacts construction may have on trees that are to be preserved and suggested mitigation:

N/A

Options:

1. Approve the application.
2. Do not approve the application.
3. Postpone consideration.

Staff Recommendations:

Option #2. Do not approve the application. The tree is in good health and condition at this time. I recommend staff continue to monitor the tree to assess any issues that may be causing any problems to the property.

If the tree is approved for removal, I recommend the applicant plant a new 5-gallon upper canopy tree in the public right-of-way in the general vicinity of the applicant's property.

Attachment

1. Tree Removal Permit Application for Phillips

CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

PO DRAWER G
CARMEL, CA 93921
Ph: (831) 620-2010 FAX: (831) 620-2014

Date Received: 8/15/15
FEE: \$ 32.50 + \$201.54
RECEIPT# 08 03044
+63966

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO REMOVE OR PRUNE TREES
NO CONSTRUCTION**

Location of property: SW corner Monte Verde + 2nd
Block: II Lot: 40 APN# 010-223-001

Name of Property Owner: MICHAEL C. PHILLIPS Name of Applicant/Contractor: same

Mailing Address: 30 WINCHESTER DRIVE Mailing Address: same

ATHERTON, CA 94027

Phone #: (650) 323-1618 650 454-0678 Phone #: cell

WHO WILL BE REMOVING/PRUNING THE TREE(S):
(PLEASE NOTE IF TREE(S) ARE ON CITY OR PRIVATE PROPERTY)

Number, size and species of tree(s) to be removed: 1 Pine circumference approx. 40"
height 75'-85"

Number, size and species of limb(s) to be removed:

Number, size and species of root(s) to be removed:

Reason for removal or pruning: Safety issue regarding retaining wall: threat to house + neighbor house

You will be notified in writing the date and time that your request is scheduled for a hearing. If you or your representative is unable to attend the hearing, your application will be tabled. You may reschedule by contacting the Secretary to the Forest and Beach Commission at (831) 620-2070. You may waive your right to speak at the hearing and authorize the Forest and Beach Commission to act on your request in your absence by signing on the following line:
Date: 8

A SITE PLAN **MUST** ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION AND **SHOW** THE FOLLOWING:

1. Location, size and species of ALL trees on the lot.
2. Location and species of tree(s)/limb(s) to be removed or pruned
3. Footprint of the structure.
4. Location of areas for tree replanting - The City has adopted Design Review Guidelines which include a minimum tree density per lot. Please review the attached Policy and indicate on the site plan where you intend to plant trees necessary to comply with this guideline.

- > Any decision of the Forest and Beach Commission is based on information submitted with this application - PLEASE BE ACCURATE.
- > **NO WORK IS PERMITTED** until you have picked up your permit for tree work - The Permit must be posted on the job site when work is being performed.

RECEIVED
AUG 14 2015
City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Planning Building Dept.

Owner's Signature: [Signature] Date: 8/15/15
Agent for Owners: _____ Date: _____

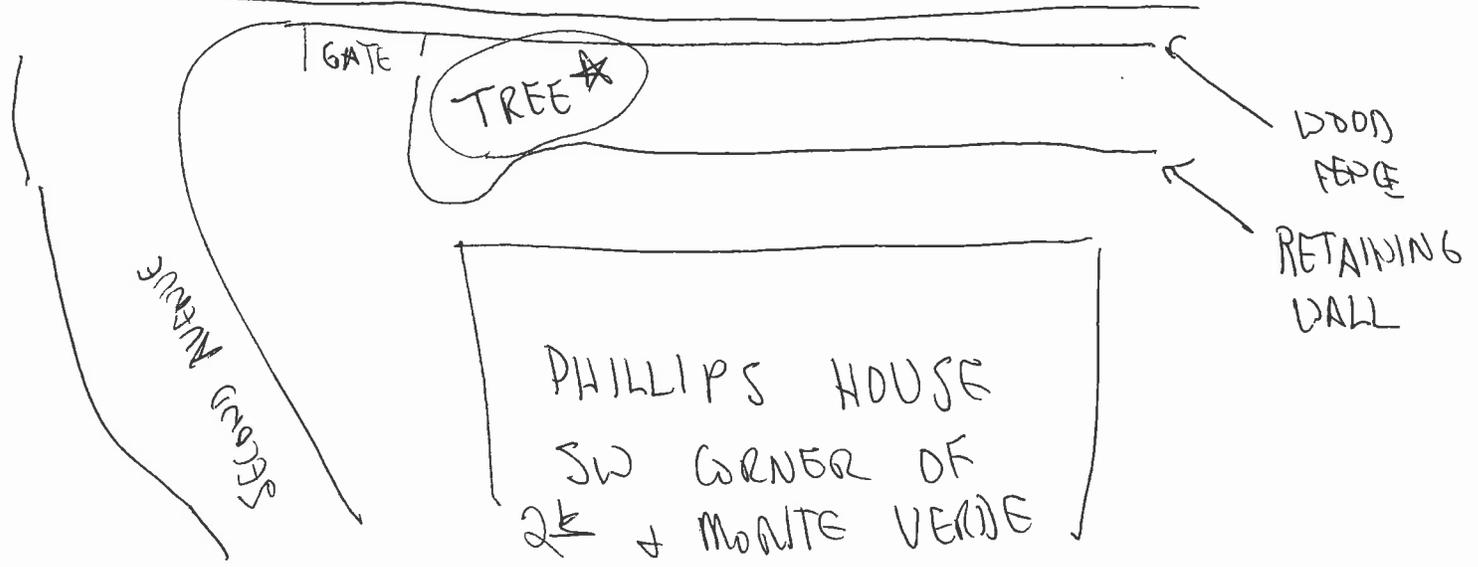
INCOMPLETE APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED

NEIGHBOR HOUSE

Attachment 1

★ PINE TREE FOR WHICH PERMIT IS SOUGHT.

MONTE VERDE



Paid By.: MIKE PHILLIPS



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
Forest and Beach Commission Report

December 10, 2015

To: Chair Refuerzo and Forest & Beach Commissioners
From: Mike Branson, City Forester
Subject: One-year status report on the North Dunes Habitat Restoration Project

The Del Mar Master Plan was adopted by the City in September 2009, and certified by the California Coastal Commission in January 2010. Included in the Master Plan is the North Dunes Habitat Restoration Plan, which describes the dune environment and includes implementation measures to restore, enhance, and protect the dune habitat of the North Dunes area of Carmel Beach. The City has a five-year contract with Native Solutions for implementation of the habitat restoration plan.

Native Solutions has provided a year-one progress report for review by the Commission. Joey Canepa, the owner of Native Solutions, will attend the meeting and be available to answer any questions about the project's progress so far as well as anticipated next steps.

Also attached is a November 2, 2015 staff report prepared for the City Council by Executive Assistant Leslie Fenton on the issue of revisions to the North Dunes Habitat Restoration Plan and related Commission and Council reviews and actions. The main focus of the report was the issue of tree management in the North Dunes. This report was part of the Council's consent agenda, and there was no discussion of the item.

Attachments

1. Native Solutions year-one progress report
2. November 2, 2015 North Dunes Habitat Restoration Plan report to the City Council



Native Solutions

Joey and Steve Canepa

P.O. Box 215· San Juan Bautista, CA. 95045

Phone (831) 915-7873

joeydorrellcanepa@gmail.com

Landscape contractor's license # 836197

Date: September 30, 2015
To: Mike Branson, City Forester
City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Public Services Department
P.O. Box CC, California 93921
Ph. 831-620-2073
MBranson@ci.carmel.ca.us

Carmel North Dunes Restoration Project Progress Report- Year One September 2015

In 2014, Carmel-By-The-Sea contracted with Native Solutions, a local habitat restoration business, to provide biological management, implementation, maintenance, and monitoring for the North Dunes Habitat Restoration project. Native Solutions is run by Joey Dorrell-Canepa, a dune biologist active in Monterey Bay Dune restoration efforts since 1992. Her husband, Steve Canepa is a landscape contractor and certified pesticide applicator. The following document provides a progress report of completed restoration activities in the Carmel Dunes and a Schedule for 2016.

The work contract was not fully implemented until December 2014; so this progress report describes a shortened period of seven months as Year One (December 2014-June 2015). Year Two will run July 2015-June 2016, with a progress report to follow in September 2016.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us!

Joey Dorrell-Canepa (831)915-7873

Steve Canepa (831)214-0711

Background

The North Dunes and Del Mar Dunes Habitat Restoration Plan was written by Jean Ferreira in 2009 and guides dune restoration efforts for the City of Carmel-By-The-Sea. This comprehensive document provides surveys, background information, and current protocol for re-vegetation and management of the remaining dune areas adjacent to Carmel Beach; approximately 5 acres of sensitive habitat. Habitat restoration supports the following General Plan policies for the City of Carmel (P-5-42): Restore, maintain and enhance the degraded habitat in the North Dunes area to enhance environmental resources and aesthetics. Protect sensitive habitat and special-status species through development and implementation of the Del Mar and North Dunes Master Plan.

North Dunes and Del Mar Dunes Habitat Restoration Plan (Ferreira, 2009)

Goal: Recreate a self-sustaining native dune habitat with thriving populations of the special status species, while providing safe visitor access and enjoyment of the dunes

Objectives:

- Eliminate all aggressive non-native species
- Expand the population of Tidestrom's lupine
- Expand the quantity and quality of available habitat for Black Legless Lizards
- Establish a trail system to provide safe visitor access without compromising the health of the dune habitat
- Provide interpretation of the dune areas to enhance visitor's experience and knowledge of Carmel Dunes

Prior Work in the Carmel Dunes

In 2011, the **Carmel by the Sea Garden Club** began the implementation phase of their Centennial Tree Project after hours of careful planning with the City of Carmel and other agencies. This project began the first managed dune restoration in the Carmel North Dunes area; it was my pleasure to be restoration manager of the effort. The Garden Club funded the cabling of 450 linear feet, which enclosed 10,000 sq.ft. for habitat restoration on the northwest corner of San Antonio and Ocean Avenue. Fencing was completed by Bruce Kiddle, Monterey County Fence Company.

Over three consecutive winters (2012-2014), a total of 1200 site-specific native dune seedlings were planted in January/February. Weed control in the restored area is ongoing, thanks to the diligent volunteer efforts of the garden club members. Survival results in their area were impressive, with steady growth and seed dispersal recorded for >65% of the seedlings planted. Poor survival occurred in areas shaded by the large eucalyptus and cypress trees, where seedlings were also affected by extensive root systems and plant litter.

In 2013, City and grant funds supported additional fencing of two areas adjacent to the existing corner restoration area. This 1100 linear feet of cabling protected another 36,000 square feet of dune habitat within the North Dunes area. Remaining grant funds administered by the city supported the planting in February/ March 2013 (600 site-specific dune seedlings) in the newly fenced areas (by Native Solutions).

Summary of Work Completed Under City Contract (December 2014-June 2015)

Initial project planning and several meetings with Public Works (Branson, Friedrickson) aligned the restoration protocol in the 2009 Restoration Plan with current City goals and funding. There was a delayed start to the first year of restoration efforts, as well as uncertain rainfall patterns, including a severe drought (2014-15) and possible El Nino conditions in 2016. To offset these issues, a three year implementation plan was suggested. This multi-year, phased approach allows for maximum establishment using information from prior plant survival, and allows for replanting in “difficult” areas. Seedlings will always be installed as early as possible during the winter rainfall period between January - February. Planting can proceed earlier if two or more inches of rain fall in November or December.

In December 2014, the city awarded the contract to Native Solutions for habitat restoration in the North Dunes. Seed collection (summer 2014) and propagation (September 2014) had already occurred, but with lower plant numbers than originally proposed. Uncertain rainfall and severe drought during winter 2014 extended to early 2015, which led to reduced plantings, as the white hydrophobic sands of the North Dunes quickly dried out. In total, only 200 site-specific dune seedlings were planted in the newly cabled areas (January/February 2015). The species included sand verbena, beach sagewort, beach primrose, dune buckwheat, mock heather, California beach poppy, and branching phacelia.

Weed eradication efforts by Native Solutions concentrated on the two new fenced areas, the fenced tidestrom's lupine population, and the roadside areas. From March – June 2015, there was a total of 40 weed bags collected, which means approximately 1000 pounds of weeds were eradicated (~25 pounds/bag).

Attempts at broadcast seeding prior to the rain season showed no verifiable results, probably due to very inconsistent winter rainfall. Since broadcast seeding can be a very efficient method of native plant establishment in fragile habitats, another attempt will be made in November 2015. Seed is easy to collect in the fall, and takes little effort to broadcast and rake in lightly. Unlike planted seedlings, if the dune seed does not get consistent moisture, it will usually survive for at least one year, and germinate when sufficient rainfall finally arrives.

The dune habitat restoration contract allows for management coordination of volunteer events. The City of Carmel is extremely lucky to have a thriving and very well-organized habitat education program, **MeEarth**, at the local Carmel Middle School. **MeEarth** staff (Tanja Roos, Rose Ashbach and Melissa Lopez) are very experienced; with their interns they run GREAT volunteer events that provide many hours of volunteer labor. Even more exciting is the education and experience the student and adult volunteers receive by working in “their own backyard” doing restoration work that matters. During five weeding/ planting events (February-May 2015), the MeEarth volunteers pulled 1800 pounds (72 bags) of oxalis, ripgut brome, conicosia, and iceplant from the fenced restoration area closed to the public restrooms. In addition, volunteers planted 87 site-specific gallon plants into the weeded areas.

Future Work

The recently completed boardwalk and stairway in the North Dunes provides easy public access through the environmentally sensitive habitat at the north end of the acreage, adjacent to Pescadero Canyon. This area contains a robust population of Tidestrom's lupine (a federal and state listed species), and is now ready for further habitat enhancements including a managed weed eradication program. In particular, the following non-native invasive species are supposed to be controlled or eradicated: Ice plant (*Carpobrotus* and *Conicosia* spp.) and Sydney golden wattle (*Acacia longifolia*).

Schedule of Work (July 2015- June 2016)

Site-specific seed collection (within two miles of site)	Aug-Sept 2015
Propagation	Sept-Oct 2015
Plant 1200 -1500 site specific seedlings in native plant clusters (If El Nino pattern develops, plant early after 2 inches of rainfall) Add Beach poppy, Indian paintbrush, beach aster, lizardtail to suggested plant mix	Jan-Feb 2016 (Nov 2015)
Replace fencing with cabling around tidestrom's lupine cluster (boardwalk area) Cable tidestrom's cluster (central northern border)	Nov-Dec 2015
Weed control (iceplant, conicosia, oxalis, rippgut grass, oats, blackberry) Complete eradication of erect veldtgrass (<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>) under trees/shrubs	Feb-June 2016
Write coastal permit for restoration work (MOU for endangered sp. Collection) File permit to propagate tidestrom's lupine (Aug-Sept 2016, 200-400 plants) Goal = 10 population clusters of 100 each	Ongoing
Eliminate tidestrom's lupine hybrids before flowering (CA. Fish and Game)	March 2016
Determine long term plan for acacia and selective cypress removal	2016
Develop monitoring program for special status and dune scrub species	2016



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

AGENDA BILL

AB 1037
November 2, 2015
Consent Calendar

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council Douglas J. Schmitz, City Administrator
FROM:	Leslie Fenton, Executive Assistant
SUBJECT:	Receive a report on the North Dunes and Del Mar Dunes Habitat Restoration Plan, subsequent revisions to that plan, and prior Commission and Council actions with regards to the North Dunes and Del Mar Dunes.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ 0
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ 0
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 0

RECOMMENDATION

Receive report.

SUMMARY

In July 2008 Botanist Jean Ferreira wrote the "North Dunes & Del Mar Dunes Habitat Restoration Plan", which recommended that the City "Identify Monterey Cypress landscaping areas in North dunes that will be maintained as historical landscaping. Remove all other non-native trees in the dunes with exception of one landmark sized Eucalyptus tree at the corner of Ocean and N. San Antonio Ave" and that "Those individual trees planted away from Ocean Ave, more in the central portion of the North Dunes should be removed and the area restored to the native dune scrub. The Monterey pine trees planted at the very north end of North Dunes should also be removed and dune scrub restored to the area."

On 29 July 2008 a public workshop was held and the public comments included recommending replanting more Cypress, leaving or cutting dead Cypress all the way down, and removing baby Cypress and pines in north dunes area, and not replacing dead trees. The Forest and Beach Commission discussed the item at their September 2008 meeting and came to the consensus that it "is not opposed to tree removal but are of the opinion that tree removal should be evaluated in each area and should be the last phase in any program that is adopted." The Planning Commission reviewed the document at their 8 October 2008 meeting and made several recommendations to be incorporated into the plan, one of them being that the plan no longer call for the removal of existing trees in the dunes.

In April 2009 Botanist Jean Ferreira submitted a revised "North Dunes & Del Mar Dunes Habitat Restoration Plan." The revised report recommended that the City "Identify Monterey Cypress landscaping areas in North Dunes that will be maintained as historical landscaping including the one

landmark-sized Eucalyptus tree at the corner of Ocean and N. San Antonio Ave”, and that “Those individual trees planted away from Ocean Ave, more in the central portion of the North Dunes and the Monterey Pines planted at the very north end of the dunes should not be replaced if removed due to disease or death and the area restored to the native dune scrub. Mature cypress and pines should be removed after they died or decline to the point they are no longer esthetic or safe.”

At the 8 April 2009 Planning Commission meeting Commission members discussed the revised “North Dunes & Del Mar Dunes Habitat Restoration Plan.” The Planning Commission requested two revisions to the plan involving pathways and boardwalks and the project was continued to the May 2009 meeting. At the 20 May 2009 Special meeting the Planning Commission again reviewed the plan and the changes made throughout and recommended that the City Council adopt the plan and the Mitigated Negative Declaration by a unanimous vote.

At the 2 June 2009 City Council meeting Council approved Resolution No. 2009-39 adopting the Del Mar Master Plan, A Mitigated Negative Declaration and a Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.

It should be noted that The General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan Adopted June 3, 2003 states “P5-25 Continue the use of Monterey Cypress as the predominant tree species on the beach bluff and North Dunes. The exact number of trees may vary over time, but whenever a tree dies or is lost during a storm, replacement trees should be planted in approximately the same location. Maintain a low-to-medium density of trees (40 to 60 trees) in the North Dunes. (LUP)”

In May 2014, a Planning Commission ad-hoc subcommittee was formed to study the issue of the North Dunes restoration, including consideration for the removal of non-native vegetation and trees. On 30 September 2015, a public workshop was held and was attended by Ms. Joey Canepa, who is the botanist that will be assisting the City with future dune restoration efforts. At the workshop it was noted that future efforts to restore the North Dunes by removing non-native vegetation would require the issuance of a Coastal Development Permit. Any tree removal is required to be consistent with the policies of the General Plan and North Dunes Restoration Plan, and should be done with a phased approach.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

The City Council adopted the Del Mar Master Plan 2 June 2009.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

APPROVED:	
	Date: <u>29 Oct. 15</u>
Douglas J. Schmitz, City Administrator	



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
Forest and Beach Commission Report

December 10, 2015

To: Chair Refuerzo and Forest & Beach Commissioners
From: Mike Branson, City Forester
Subject: 2016 Meeting Calendar

Staff has drafted proposed regular meeting dates for 2016 and acknowledges that modifications may be made during the year as necessary.

2016 PROPOSED FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING CALENDAR:

January 14th
February 11th
March 10th
April 14th
May 12th
June 9th
July 14th
August 11th
September 8th
October 13th
November 10th
December 8th

If you are unable to attend any of the scheduled meetings, please advise the Commission Secretary well in advance of your absence.

