

# THE MORNING AFTER

*Highlights from the  
Ross Town Council Meeting  
of June 14, 2007*

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## **Welcome from Town Manager Gary Broad**

Welcome to the first edition of The Morning After, the Town of Ross' new monthly newsletter, that will deliver up-to-the-minute news from the previous night's Town Council meeting. We hope you enjoy hearing what is going on with your town government. And if you are excited about anything that is happening, do join in! Please email me with any comments, suggestions or ideas at [gbroad@townofross.org](mailto:gbroad@townofross.org).

## **Ross General Plan 2007-2025 Adopted**

The Town Council unanimously voted to adopt the Ross General Plan 2007-2025. The new general plan will guide the growth and development of the town over the next twenty years. The plan's goals and policies are committed to preserving and enhancing the small-town feel of our community.

A steering committee comprised of eight Ross residents worked diligently for almost three years to develop a plan that reflects our community ethic regarding sustainability and living in harmony with the natural and built environment. Hats off to steering committee members Jody Anne Becker, George Dirkes, Bruce Goldberg, Richard Hannum, Wendy McPhee, and Lesley Reidy, and to Town Councilmember liaisons Scot Hunter and Thomas F. Byrnes, Jr. The Council gave them baseball caps adorned with the Ross Town Bear and presented them with framed resolutions honoring them for their dedication and their invaluable service to Ross residents.

The Town Council also selected five Council goals for the coming legislative year from the many programs included in the general plan. Mayor Scot Hunter will be sending Ross residents a letter explaining these goals and other important work the Council is undertaking on their behalf. The general plan is available on-line at [www.townofross.org/planning-department/general-plan/](http://www.townofross.org/planning-department/general-plan/).

## **Creek Widening and New Fish Ladder Proposed**

County of Marin Flood Control staff and Geomorph Consulting presented design alternatives and recommendations for widening Corte Madera Creek and replacing the fish ladder. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participated in the discussion.

To improve the flood capacity of the creek, hydrology experts recommend widening channel sections to 33 feet in the Lagunitas Road Bridge and fish ladder areas. Three significant constriction points need to be addressed, two behind the post office and the third behind Town Hall.

Hydrology models show that environmental impacts can be minimized and flood capacity maximized by removing the fish ladder, cutting back some of the creek banks on town property, and stabilizing the affected banks with retaining walls. The recommended strategy preserves

most significant vegetation and increases the flood capacity from 3,200 cfs (cubic feet per second) to 5,400 cfs, which is adequate to contain a 30-year flood.



*Existing fish ladder*



*Example of a rock-ramp fish ladder*

The steelhead trout, a federally-designated threatened species, makes annual runs in Corte Madera Creek and Ross Creek. The existing fish ladder presents an obstacle to safe fish passage because it is too steep and water velocities are too high during spawning periods. Replacing the fish ladder with a rock-ramp fish ladder will greatly improve fish passage and the flood capacity of the creek.

The County of Marin asked the Town to consider the recommended strategy and authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate the proposal and begin preliminary engineering work on the project. The project will take approximately three years to complete and the Army Corps indicated it would cost approximately \$10 million. Federal funding would pay for 98.5% of the project.

Jack Curley, County of Marin Assistant Civil Engineer, emphasized that any creek widening project will not be sufficient to contain a 100-year flood, which was the size of the 2005 New Year's Eve flood. A Ross Valley regional solution, that could include upstream detention basins, is being investigated by the County and the Ross Valley cities.



### **Report from Mayor Scot Hunter**

Exploration of fire service consolidation throughout the Ross Valley has been terminated. The Town will continue to explore consolidation with the Kentfield Fire Protection District. In addition, the Ross Valley Fire Service has asked to make a presentation to the Town.

In *Parmenter v. Town of Ross*, the Court ruled that the Town had acted properly in denying Parmenter's application to construct a single-family residence on a steep lot on Baywood Avenue. The Town Council had previously determined that the proposed development was inappropriately designed for the site and did not meet the Town's hillside lot regulations.

### **2007-2008 Budget Approved**

The Town Council approved the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget. Operating and capital budgets total \$4,738,833 for the coming fiscal year. The budget continues to fund the very successful firefighter apprentice program that was initiated last year, which adds a third person to each shift. It also provides \$225,000 for roadway improvements in town and nearly \$500,000 for drainage improvements, including the preliminary engineering and environmental review on the Lagunitas Road Bridge Replacement project. Other important line items include almost \$400,000 for

pedestrian improvements on Shady Lane and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and \$100,000 for a downtown plan.

### **Taxes Lowered**

The Council unanimously agreed to reduce the Municipal Services Tax from \$1,000 to \$775 per parcel for the coming fiscal year. The Municipal Services Tax was approved by Ross voters in March 2004, allowing the Town Council to assess each developed parcel up to \$1,000 a year. As this is a four-year tax, it will need to be brought back before Ross voters in 2008 for renewal.



### **From Public Works Director Mel Jarjoura**

The Public Works Department planted some replacement trees on Shady Lane and Bolinas Avenue last month. The Department also mailed letters to homeowners on Lagunitas Road and Shady Lane asking them to clear landscaping encroaching on the pathways in front of their houses. So far about half of the residents have complied and the Town appreciates their help.

Beginning June 18, the Ross Valley Sanitary District will begin a four-week project to replace old sewer lines on North Road, West Road and Hill Road. Residents may contact the Project Coordinator Veronica Campbell at 822-3700 with any questions or concerns.

### **Woodside Way to be Repaved**

The Town Council authorized the expenditure of \$49,603.50 for repaving of Woodside Way. The contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, W.K. McLellan Company. Repaving of the entire street is scheduled to begin the last week in June and last approximately one week. Contact Public Works Director Mel Jarjoura for more information at [mjarjoura@townofross.org](mailto:mjarjoura@townofross.org).



### **From Public Safety Director Barry Heying**

The Town's campaign to eliminate speeding on Bolinas Avenue and illegal U-turns in the downtown is having some success. Police officers doubled the number of traffic citations typically issued town wide in a month, driving behavior has improved and the accident rate has decreased. The Police Department urges everyone to slow down and drive safely.

The town's new fire engine entered service last month. This state-of-the-art truck includes all-wheel steering, which greatly improves the engine's turning radius and provides better access to narrow roads with sharp turns. The engine also has an automatic foam system that can deliver foam instead of just water to extinguish fires more quickly and leave less water damage. The older engine will be kept in reserve in case the new engine has to leave town on an emergency.

## Planning Application Scorecard

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications considered at last night's Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, you can view last night's agenda at [www.townofross.org/town-council/current-meeting-agenda/](http://www.townofross.org/town-council/current-meeting-agenda/). Copies of any staff reports may be requested from Senior Planner Elise Semonian at [esemonian@townofross.org](mailto:esemonian@townofross.org).

Address	Applicant	Approved	Partially Approved	Denied	Continued
39 Fernhill Ave.	Branson School	X			
22 Chestnut Ave.	Suzanne and Joe Galuszka	X			
20 Winding Way	Robert and Kim Kristoff	X			
58 Wellington Ave.	Joyce Konigsberg	X			
23 Baywood Ave.	Richard and Cynthia Hannum	X			
24 Upper Road West	Mohammed Diab	X			
16 Walters Rd.	Rocky Stich	X			
42 Fernhill Ave.	Tim Wood		X		
18 Canyon Road	Douglas Abrams				X

## Upcoming Town Council Meetings

The next Town Council meeting will be Thursday, July 12, at 6:30 p.m. Agendas are posted in advance of the meeting on the town's website at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org). In order to accommodate summer schedules, the August meeting has been canceled.

*The Morning After is published monthly by The Town of Ross and is written by Christine O'Rourke and edited by Gary Broad. It is available at Town Hall and on-line at the town's website. The newsletter is also delivered to everyone on the town's Information by Email list. If you'd like to receive The Morning After and other town information via email, contact Linda Lopez at [llopez@townofross.org](mailto:llopez@townofross.org).*