

# THE MORNING AFTER

*Highlights from the  
Ross Town Council Meeting  
of October 11, 2007*

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## **Welcome from Mayor Scot Hunter**

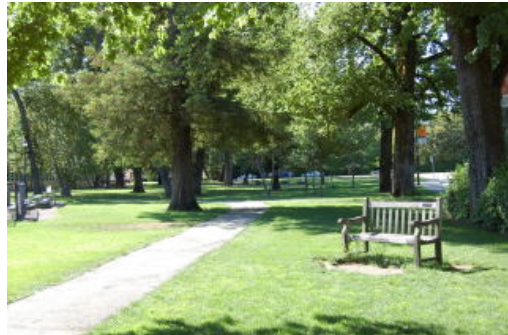
This month's edition of "The Morning After" could well be called "Later that Morning." It was after midnight this morning when we adjourned our October meeting. The evening featured a lively agenda with interesting, and sometimes heartfelt, debate on topics as varied as an enhanced smoking ordinance, the use of the Ross Common for temporary classrooms, and the hillside lot ordinance. All of these discussions are more meaningful if we know how you, as our constituents, feel about the issues – please email or call and let your Council know what you think. In the meantime, read on...

## **Council Considers Outdoor Smoking Restrictions**

The Town Council continued discussion of a proposed Town ordinance further regulating secondhand smoke until more residents could become aware of the ordinance's provisions. The ordinance would expand the Town's existing smoking regulations to include smoking in some outdoor public places and to declare smoking to be a public nuisance.

Council members Diane Durst, Michael Skall and Rick Strauss expressed reservation with provisions declaring secondhand smoke to be a nuisance, allowing a resident impacted by a neighbor's smoke drifting onto their property to pursue legal remedies. They expressed concern that the proposed ordinance would encourage litigation.

The ordinance proposed expanding the Town's 1989 smoking prohibitions in enclosed public places to include smoking in bars, common areas of multi-family housing, and 50% of hotel guest rooms. The ordinance also prohibited outdoor smoking in Town-owned parks and



*The Council discussed smoking prohibitions in Town parks and other outdoor areas.*



recreation areas, outdoor dining areas of restaurants, service areas such as ticket lines and bus stops, and within 20 feet of any opening of an enclosed area within which smoking is prohibited.

The Council majority was concerned that many Ross residents were not aware of the proposed ordinance and had not had an opportunity to voice their opinion. The Council agreed to allow more time for community input before revisiting the issue. The Council also directed staff to include a provision that would designate smoking areas on Town-owned property.

## Town's Warning Siren to be Mounted on Tree Pole



The Council approved metroPCS' application for a cellular installation on a 50-foot tall pole, designed to resemble a pine tree, near the Town's corporation yard building on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. MetroPCS will mount the Town's new community alert siren at the top of the tree pole in addition to their three wireless communication antennas. The Town is negotiating with T-Mobile to relocate their existing cellular antennas from the rear of the Town's Fire Station to the faux tree pole.

*Can you spot the cellular antenna?*

## New Stop Signs for Bolinas Avenue at Richmond Drive

Ross and San Anselmo Town staff have agreed to recommend their respective Councils install stop signs on Bolinas Avenue at Richmond Drive for traffic traveling in both an eastbound and westbound direction on Bolinas Avenue in an effort to control speeding on the street. The towns will also work on a joint application for a Safe Routes to School grant for traffic calming measures on the road.



## Town Hydrologist Introduced

The Town Council introduced Matt Smeltzer, a civil engineer and fluvial geomorphology consultant, who was recently retained as Town Hydrologist. Mr. Smeltzer will provide hydrology, hydraulic and engineering design support to the town. He will also assist the town in developing guidelines to address site runoff.



Mr. Smeltzer is a leading authority on the Corte Madera Creek watershed, having completed numerous studies on stream bank stabilization, habitat improvement, and flood control in Ross Valley. In July, the Ross Town Council gave conceptual approval to Mr. Smeltzer's feasibility-level channel design for the Army Corps of Engineers' proposed flood control project in Ross.

## Ross Residents Enjoy Town Dinner

Over 500 people gathered on the Ross Common in the grove under twinkling lights for the Town Dinner on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The event was wonderful and a huge success. Many thanks to Town Chief of Protocol Molly Gamble and her committee for decorating the tables and this lovely event.



*Photos: Wendy Battey*

## Town is Awarded Grant for Shady Lane Pathway

The Transportation Authority of Marin approved the Town of Ross' application for a \$246,207 grant for a pedestrian pathway on Shady Lane. The Town plans to construct a four foot-wide asphalt pathway on the east side of Shady Lane running from Lagunitas Road to the San Anselmo border. Construction is scheduled to take place in 2008. The pathway is one of the improvements recommended by Safe Routes to School and is hoped to reduce traffic around Ross School by encouraging students to walk and ride bikes to school.



## Ross School Requests Use of Ross Common for Temporary Campus



The Town Council blessed Ross School's request to use the Ross Common for a temporary campus and construction staging area during the reconstruction of Ross School between May 2008 and February 2010.

Ross School's plans call for the installation of 19 eleven-foot tall portable buildings to provide classrooms, administrative offices, a library and office space for Ross Recreation. Most of the floor area of the buildings would be located on the Common. Temporary asphalt paths will also be constructed to provide access between the buildings and Ross Common.

The school would set up a contractor staging area on the existing baseball field. The current baseball diamond and soccer field would be temporarily relocated to make room for construction activities. The school district and the Town will enter into an agreement that ensures the Common will be restored to its original condition at the end of the construction project.

## Fire Protection Regulations Discussed

The Town Council discussed adopting additional regulations for projects located in high fire hazard areas. Houses and buildings constructed near open space are vulnerable to wildland fires and pose a high danger of transmitting fires to wildland areas. In order to help mitigate these hazards, the State of California has recently adopted wildland-urban interface standards containing ignition-resistant construction standards for buildings near wildland areas.

Local governments are required to apply these wildland-urban interface building standards to new development in very-high fire hazard areas. Although the Town has little such State-designated areas, it does have areas where it may be appropriate to apply special standards for new construction and remodel projects. Staff suggested the Council consider properties located in the R-1:B-5A and B-10A districts, which typically include larger, hillside properties, and those containing special hazard Zones 3 and 4 for ignition-resistant building regulations.



*Development adjacent to open space, such as this area in Southern California, can be vulnerable to wildfires.*

Special building construction standards include the required use of a Class A roof assembly, exterior windows made of tempered glass or multilayered glazed panels, exterior walls and decks constructed of materials with a minimum 1-hour fire-resistance rating, and the protection of eaves and soffits. The Council may also consider additional requirements for providing emergency vehicle access and creating a vegetation management plan.



### From Public Safety Director Barry Heying

The Get Ready disaster-preparedness program was officially launched countywide on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Cecilia Conte, the Town’s volunteer coordinator, is now available to teach instructor classes to residents who would like to learn to teach the two-hour course to others. This program is easy-to-teach, easy-to-learn, and can be introduced at a variety of informal or social gatherings. We will soon be announcing trainer classes at the Marin Art & Garden Center for November and December. More information, including the Disaster Plan Worksheet, can be found on the Town’s website at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org).

### Winding Way to be Repaved

The Town Council authorized the expenditure of \$43,480.50 for repaving of Winding Way. The contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, Nerviani Paving. Repaving of the street from Canyon Road to 126 Winding Way will take place over the next few weeks and last three to five days.



### Planning Application Scoreboard

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 staff reports at <http://www.townofross.org/town-council/current-meeting-reports/>. The minutes of this meeting will be available on the Town website at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org) after approval at the November Council meeting

Address	Applicant	Approved	Partially Approved	Denied	Continued
30 El Camino Bueno	Colin Lind and Anne Dickerson-Lind				X
18 Redwood Drive	Lisa and Michael Gorham	X			
6 Norwood Ave.	Charles and Jan Hoeveler	X			
36 Glenwood Ave.	John and Cindy Pritzker				X
54 Baywood Ave.	Ross and Ligia Parmenter				X
63 Ivy Drive	Steve Daane and Sheryl Garrett	X			
18 Canyon Rd.	Douglas Abrams	X			

### Upcoming Town Council Meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be Thursday, November 8, 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).

*The Morning After is published monthly by The Town of Ross and is written by Project Planner Christine O’Rourke and edited by Town Manager Gary Broad. It is available at Town Hall and on-line at the town’s website at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org). 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).*