

**INDIAN VALLEY ASSOCIATES**  
**APRIL 19, 2018**  
**MEETING AT THE WITZEL HOUSE**

Present were Craig Knowlton, Tanya Omran, Skip Fenner, Tom Tharsing, Ladd Cahoon, Claudine Le Moal, Lynn Perry, Vicki Martinez, Barry Sheppard, Nita Bruinsslot and Monica Brett. Also present was emeritus member Ron Witzel and also guest Sam Goldberger.

Craig brought the meeting to order a 7.45.

Evacuation meeting at Hill Gym on 5/5 at 10.30. We should go and see information on evacuations, fire prevention, etc. PG&E, the Humane Society and other agencies will be there for information. Meantime, we should sign up for Alert Marin online. Tom said that Novato fire trucks will be driving slowly around all roads in Indian Valley to alert everyone about fire prevention and awareness. Ladd asked whether we should have a siren because cell coverage is inconsistent.

Tom reported on Chipper Days which will be on May 12-13 and 19-20. We need volunteers to staff the drop-off sites, for orderly drop-offs and also to get signatures of all those using the sites. Bill and Jonell are in charge of doing this, but unfortunately they were not at the meeting. All hours and costs associated with clearing brush and trimming trees should be reported so that we can qualify for the grants we receive from Novato Fire and FIRESafe Marin. Recording sheets were distributed to everyone.

Tom requested help to clean up the Cantarutti dump site. The grass is very long. Barry volunteered to get this done.

Tom talked about the benefits of becoming a FireWise Community which include better/cheaper fire insurance and grants for Chipper Days.

Sam Goldberger, Court Weidemyer, Craig and Tom are on the FireWise committee. Roads like Old Ranch Rd, Gage Lane and others need some aggressive cutting back of branches, etc. Any homeowner can request the Fire Marshal to inspect their property to indicate what should be cut.

Nita reported on the plans for the new pool and poolhouse on Pacheco. We had noted the low ceiling of part of the poolhouse and requested all lighting to be adjusted to point down but the County sent the owners a long list of requirements and the owners have sent the new plans to the County.

Ron suggested that we should submit questions to the 2 candidates for supervisor:

- Suggestions to promote road safety and speed control

- Plans to mitigate the parking problem on the road opposite the Open Space

- Plans to control B&B problems

Ron commented about B&Bs saying that our zoning does not allow them and one house which does not have an on-site owner is annoying neighbors with noisy parties, etc.

Tom then commented on the size of the IVA board. He feels, with a total of 17 (including the president) that this is unwieldy and it means we don't always have a quorum for a meeting and passing motions. He asked whether we should amend the number to 12 which would mean a quorum would be 7. The by-laws would have to be changed.

Vicki talked about the Open Space and the debris/fuel problems especially on the upper trails. She spoke to the chief ranger who said that the County is starting to cut down dead trees and allowing them to rot on the ground.

Tom reported that the County will issue permits to homeowners to clear a 100 foot space between the Open Space and their own house to achieve defensible space.

Ron said we must keep asking the County to clear debris and vegetation in the Open Space. The sheep and goats used last year are apparently doing the rounds of County open spaces.

At 8.35, Craig adjourned the meeting.