

IVA General Meeting  
1848 Indian Valley Road  
Loftus Barn  
September 8, 2018

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Present were Craig Knowlton, Nita Bruinsslot, Barry Sheppard, Yves Lermusi, Tom Tharsing, Claudine Le Moal, Ladd Cahoon, Skip Fenner, Jonell O'Day, Lynn Perry and Monica Brett.

Also present was Ron Witzel emeritus member,

At 10.10, Craig called the meeting to order. Then he introduced Bill Tyler, Novato's Fire Chief. The Chief explained that the fires in California in the last 5 years have been climate driven. In the last 3 years, the acreage burnt went from 233,000 acres to 613,000 acres this year.

He discussed the mutual aid agreement between fire departments; the topping off of the water tanks so there is always water available for firefighting; the importance of registering with Alert Marin and Nixle for text or phone messages regarding evacuations; the red flag warning system; the weather stations gathering information on heat and humidity; the cameras for spotting fires in this area; CalFire air tankers; areas of refuge; and the public warning system which gives radio and TV alerts.

Next he went on to making our properties less flammable. Cutting back brush and trees near the house, etc. and getting rid of flammable plants like juniper and scotch broom.

They are offering a grant of up to \$500 in matching funds for defensible space work.

Evacuation plans for people and animals should be in place as should "go bags" ready to leave when we're told to. The Fire Dept needs us to get out so emergency vehicles can tackle the fire unimpeded.

Craig thanked Chief Tyler and then pointed out that firesafemarin.org has a list of plants which are less flammable.

Next Craig asked for new residents of Indian Valley to identify themselves. There were 3 new families present and they were welcomed.

Judy Arnold was unable to attend the meeting, but we were told that she is following up on the complaints of speeding on IVR with new signs and pavement markings.

Craig reported that PG&E has new rules regarding power poles carrying 12,000 volts - there will be a required 10 foot clearance around them.

Craig reported that a disaster committee has been formed which will be working on evacuation plans. The Halter Fund is going to give a presentation on animal evacuation soon.

Jonell gave the treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$12,181 after paying for Chipper Days and other expenses.

Tom introduced Laura Colvin who will be taking over his responsibilities regarding Chipper Days. He reported that we are trying to become a FireWise Community which entails making defensible space around houses and eradication of highly flammable plants.

There were complaints from the audience regarding the dangerous state of the Open Space. There are dead trees and branches everywhere with no apparent attempt by the County to do any clearing.

Next Craig told the meeting that we would like to reduce the size of the board from 16 + president to 12 + president, because sometimes we do not have enough people at board meetings to make a quorum so that business can be transacted and minutes taken. After discussion, he asked for a vote from the general membership it was passed.

Elections: Samuel Goldberger and Laura Colvin volunteered to stand for election to the board and then ballots were distributed with these 2 write-in candidates. Results will be given via email.

Craig thanked Carol and Lloyd Loftus very much for the use of their lovely barn for our meeting and a gift was given. Then he thanked Joanna and Ron Witzel for hosting the association meetings and they were given a gift too.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.10.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Brett  
Secretary