

MINUTES OF THE FITCH MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF JULY 8, 2007  
(held at the Villa Chanticleer Annex)

Kate Barrett called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. and welcomed new members. Officers present were President Kate Barrett, Secretary Ellen Silge, and Treasurer and Trustee Joseph Taylor. Other trustees present were Penelope La Montagne, Donita Proctor, and Al Pucci. In all, 41 people were in the room, including 4 guests; 30 members signed in.

(Today's refreshments are courtesy of Sonoma Sparkler and President Barrett.)

Don McEnhill moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2007. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$743.23. About \$700 has come in this year, and expenses (primarily for the newsletter and Annex rental) have been about \$1100. What came in today for memberships will probably bring us back up to the \$1000 level that we like to maintain.

Open Issues:

Open Position: The Association still needs a vice-president (previous VP moved to Colorado). Anyone interested in serving as VP should contact Pres. Barrett.

Open Space: Joseph Taylor has recently spoken with Ed Wilson, who represents the owners of the approximately 280 private acres at the top of Fitch Mountain, half of which are in a conservation easement. According to Wilson, the group has been waiting for 1 1/2 years to hear from the Open Space District with an appraisal of the property's worth. Negotiations with that agency would follow.

Speakers: *[Detailed accounts of the speakers' remarks are in the file "July '07 Speakers" on the web site.]*

Randy Collins, Healdsburg's Fire Chief, elaborated on the main points in the brochure "Fire Safety on Fitch Mountain" and answered questions from the audience about what residents can do to prepare for a fire emergency.

Penelope La Montagne introduced Barry Dugan, Managing Editor of three newspapers, including the Healdsburg Tribune, as one who has written in depth about water issues for many years, with accuracy and without bias. Dugan gave an

overview of the Russian River water system, including the history and function of the Sonoma County Water Agency; discussed the proposed North County Agricultural Reuse Program; and answered questions about water rights, the ethics of current proposals, and the challenges of dealing with bureaucracies.

Following up on comments about taking a stand, Kate Fraga announced that she is coordinating an event at Camp Rose on September 9th “to celebrate the river and organize to work for it.” (She also has information to share from a meeting she attended about Syar’s request for an extension of its river gravel-mining permit.)

Pres. Barrett read an email from a summer resident who has a home at Del Rio. The letter deals with problems on the beach with uncivil beachgoers and lack of sheriff response. “The rowdiness seems to be getting out of hand.” Barrett noted that our questions for our next speaker are: What are our rights, as far as trespass, illegal parking, drinking, and other issues that impact all of us living along the river or wanting to use the beach?

Deputy Don Fletcher works for the Sheriff’s Department in the Community-Oriented Policing unit, and he has recently been assigned to our area. He talked about the number of service calls from Fitch Mountain (not many); the limited number of responders available at various times; behavior issues at the beach; and parking issues around the mountain. He works Tuesday through Friday during the daytime; his cell number is 732-0171.

New Business:

Sylvia Seventy has a list of ideas that she would like to propose as agenda items for membership meetings or even as small interest-group concerns. Perhaps FMA could hold some extra meetings, or be bold in deviating from oft-repeated meeting topics. Kate Barrett responded that the FMA newsletter is a good venue that reaches everyone, and that committees are an option. Her phone number is 431-8613; she’d be glad to talk with anyone about issues that concern Mountain residents.

Last-Minute Concerns:

Q: Is our mountain lion still around? A: No sightings since May, but be careful anyway. Information more detailed than that in the newsletter is available on the FMA web site. It is important for people who have vacation rental units to alert/educate guests to be careful (without hysteria), for the animal’s and people’s sake. Q: You mean there was a mountain lion sighting? A: Yes, on Hilltop Drive.

Meeting adjourned at 12:59.