



Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – December 1, 2025
7:00 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room

Attendees:

Steering Committee: Will Hart, Joy Elson, Janet Johnson, Ellen Hagan, Christy Barden, Joanne Brown, Tom Dale Creighton, Spencer LeGate, Todd Krein, Debbie Wandro, Karen Wcislo, Marlene Widmann. - a quorum
Members/Neighbors: Patricia Graves, Ken Bradford, Susan Zdarko, Laurie Segal, Brad Reynolds

Will Hart called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Janet Johnson

Dues - \$6,950. Expenses to date \$3,999. Donations will be sent to Chirp (\$100), Bear Yuba Land Trust (\$120) and YubaNet (\$240). We are a bit below budget. \$350 remains allocated for Firewise Committee expenses. \$5,971 has been received for the Pello project and is in a temporarily restricted account. Bank balance - \$10,315

Membership Report - Joy Elson

There are 254 current members. People will start renewing in January. Joy will send out a reminder to renew.

Firewise Committee Report - Karen Wcislo

- The annual report needed to maintain our status as a Firewise Community was submitted to NFPA and approved. The most recent certificate of our status is available on the website. 140 members (30 more than last year) responded with mitigation data on hours worked and money spent to create defensible space and a safer home. Our total contribution was \$1,801,000, which is well over what is needed.
- Karen explained that it is the homeowner's responsibility to clear the sides of roadways. The County clears county roads only every 7 years. A nonflammable perimeter (0' -5') around houses is now required of new construction.
- Evan McClenithan has told us that work will be done on the Old Airport property and Hirschman's Pond this year. There will be a community meeting with more information.
- The free chipping program provided by the County OES will continue as long as money is available. From the website, members should let Joy know if they are interested. Green waste dumpsters in our neighborhood will also continue to be offered.
- Karen summarized some of the ideas members have suggested for focus by the Firewise Committee.
 - It was suggested that we include on our website a list of contractors recommended by our members. The committee will look into the feasibility of this idea.
 - Work parties made up of our members to help those unable to create defensible space has been suggested. There are some people willing to do this. The committee will try to harness this energy.
 - What to do about neighbors who don't clear their land is problematic. Asking Patrick Mason, the Fire Marshal, to engage with property owners has been discussed.
- The Firewise Committee visited Cheryl Haines' property to view part of the land burned by Terra Fuego. This is a long term prescribed burn project to clear brush along the Yuba River canyon. Karen thought it "looked good".

Double Dog Talk on 10/16 Debrief - Will Hart:

The presentation was well done. At some point, the information presented will be available on our website.

Pello Property Fundraising - Will Hart

The money needed for up-front costs has been raised. We've received \$5,971. We will apply for appropriate grants in an effort to purchase the property for Nevada City.

Highway 49 Corridor Project. - Will Hart

Meetings have taken place. GCHNA concerns have focused on maintaining the rural look and aesthetics of the islands and the effect of the roundabouts on evacuation. Will they cause a bottleneck? The modeling needed to discuss this issue is not yet available. There are concerns about pedestrian safety and light pollution. Ken Bradford voiced his belief that two roundabouts are not needed and explained how a light rather than a roundabout made more sense. Another meeting will be held in Dec.

Newsletter - Ellen Hagan

The winter newsletter will be printed and mailed to all property owners living within our neighborhood boundaries in late January. It is our one opportunity to communicate with neighbors who aren't members of GCHNA. We'll focus on encouraging new membership. Articles are requested, particularly stories about people doing significant work on their property.

New Road Reps

Brad Reynolds and Susan Zdarko have been elected new road reps. Brad will represent Lower Cement Hill and Susan will represent Applewood Lane. We welcome them to the GCHNA Steering Committee.

General Member Comments

Joanne reminded road reps that she has red welcome folders which should be given to new people moving into the neighborhood. They contain information about our organization and fire safety.

Announcements

The next Neighborhood Meeting will be held on Feb. 2, 2026 at 7 pm in the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room.

A Steering Committee photo was taken.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hagan

