Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2026
7:00 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room

Attendees

Steering Committee: Will Hart, Joy Elson, Ellen Hagan, Joanne Brown, Debbie Wandro, Christy Barden, Eileen Jorgensen, Dale Creighton, Karen Wcislo, Brad Reynolds, Susan Zdarko, Laura Pappani, Erin Smith, Laurie Segal. - a quorum

Others: Henry and Arabella Macias, Eli Marienthal (and daughter), Joanna Cote Thurman, Margo Cooper, Keith Currier, Patricia Graves, Steve Danner, Wendell Baker, Missy Neville, Erin Tarr, Suzi Schoensee, Elizabeth Dieter, Molly Breen, Dan Vanatta, Sandy Creighton, Erica Schwanke, Kristy Cartwright, Eileen Blodgett, Carol Cates, Caari Morgan, Lore James, Theo and June Fitanides

Meeting called to order by Will Hart.

Cement Hill/Golden Oaks Property for Sale

The 81 acre Kinnison property on Cement Hill/Golden Oaks is up for sale. Part of this property has a trail that neighbors use to access the Cement Hill Ditch Trail.

Erin Tarr, Executive Director from Bear Yuba Land Trust, joined our meeting. She said that Bear Yuba Land Trust had been in discussions with the trustee for the property in recent years about a conservation easement. It has turned out that the trustee wasn't able to put any encumbrances on the property so has put it on the market. The trustee has said that she would love to see it protected and used for trails and wildlife, as that is the vision her father had, who was the previous owner.

BYLT has a grant they'd like to apply to get funding for the acquisition of this property. But a grant process takes a lot of time. The Nisenan are also interested in this property since it is adjacent to their historical Rancheria land.

There are three offers being considered. Two of the offers are by prospective buyers who'd like to build a home on the property, or develop it for multiple homes. The third offer has been made by Bob and Joanne Thurman and Eli Marienthal, who live in our neighborhood. Eli's property is adjacent to the 81 acre parcel. They explained that they are not interested in developing the property and want to keep it open space.

Eileen Blodgett and Missy Neville expressed concerns about people who park on Golden Oaks, a private road, because there is no convenient parking at the trailhead. Mountain bikers also use the trail entrance to ride the trail from Cement Hill that connects to the ditch trail.

It was decided that GCHNA will write a letter to Ms. Kinnison indicating we are aligned with the intentions expressed by the Thurmans and Eli Marienthal.

Firewise Committee Report

Karen Wcislo emphasized the importance of people submitting their mitigation forms soon. She must complete the yearly accounting to the NFPA to maintain our official Firewise Community status. The form is on the GCHNA website.

Theo Fitanides, Board Chair of the Nevada County Prescribed Burn Association

Karen introduced Theo. His group is meant to be a community support network. Their goal is to educate people about the value of prescribed burning for fire resilience, advise and support landowners interested in using it, and provide equipment like hoses and pumps. People interested in more information and learning if their property is a good

candidate can contact his organization (https://nevadacountypba.org) or the Nevada County Resource Conservation District (https://www.ncrcd.org/prescribed-fire). The NCRCD does site visits and offers classes.

Dylan Mueller spoke about the prescribed burn on his property on Mount Auburn Circle, and said it went very well. He is willing to work with GCHNA members who are interested in a prescribed burn on their property.

Treasurer's Report

Joy Elson shared the report prepared by Janet Johnson. The proposed budget for 2026 was approved by the steering committee in August. Income to date (membership dues) = $7,164. Expenses to date = $2,138. Current bank balance = $19,771. The restricted Firewise Related fund account had $425 in it, and $81.66 of that fund was spent for firewise information printouts to be distributed at the annual gathering, leaving a balance of $343.34 in the restricted funds account.

Pello Property Purchase Project

Joy reported that we have essentially met our goal of raising $7,000 for the Pello Project. From Janet's treasurer report, donations received to date for the Pello project equal $6,719.42. A check from the Pello project fund for $2,812.50 was written to Sierra County Land Trust in March and the balance at this time is $3,906.92.

Eileen Jorgensen spoke about the negotiations that continue with the Pello family regarding the appraised value of the property.

Membership

Joy reported that there are 254 current active household memberships.

Neighborhood Garage Sale

Joy Elson reported that 8-10 neighbors had indicated they'd have a garage sale that weekend, but from what she saw there were only about five who did participate. People found their way to the Owens property and enjoyed their spectacular view.

Fall Fest Party (annual GCHNA gathering) on Oct 17

Joy encouraged those who haven't yet RSVP'd to do so. Christy Barden, who provides the venue for the event, encouraged attendance as well.

NID Update

Laurie Segal, our NID rep, explained that NID is applying for a grant to help pay to repair the Scott's Flat Reservoir Spillway. Scott's Flat Reservoir is a key water source for homes and provides recreation for our county. It generates clean hydropower. NID needs our help to strengthen the application. Laurie asked that GCHNA members write a letter of support to show the state that this project matters locally and deserves funding. The link needed is https://www.nidwater.com/letter-of-support. Laurie will provide NID with a letter from GCHNA as an organization.

Member Comments

Joanne Brown gave a follow up on the issue of overnight camping that has been occurring on Indian Flat Road and the fence that had been damaged. She met with Nevada City and County representatives to express the concerns of the neighborhood. The City has already rebuilt the fence and removed furniture left by campers. Campers now leave in the morning.

Next Meeting

The next Neighborhood Meeting will be held on Dec. 7 at 7 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Hagan, Secretary