SAUSALITO TREES & VIEWS COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 3, 2011
Draft Summary Minutes

Call to Order
Chair Colfax called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Game Room in City Hall, 420 Litho Street, Sausalito.

Present: Chair Grant Colfax, Vice Chair Mary Lee Bickford, Committee Member Betsy Elliott, Committee Member Wingham Liddell, Committee Member Ronald Reich

Staff: Assistant Planner Alison Thornberry

Approval of Agenda
The agenda was approved by consensus subject to staff's recommendation that the Committee hear as many items as possible before the Sudden Oak Death Workshop presentation begins at 6:30pm. Any remaining agenda items will be heard after the SOD presentation.

Approval of Minutes
September 1, 2011

Committee Member Reich moved and Committee Member Liddell seconded a motion to approve the minutes of September 1, 2011. The motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments of Items Not on Agenda
None.

Public Hearings

1. **TRP 11-184, Tree Removal Permit, Salkhi, 509 Litho Street.** A view claim regarding the obstruction of views from the Claimant's property at 509 Litho Street (APN 064-211-38) by a tree located on the Tree Owner's property at 93 Girard Street (APN 064-211-24). The Claimant seeks an advisory decision regarding the restoration of water views from the property at 509 Litho Street.

The public hearing was opened.

Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

Committee Member Liddell moved and Committee Member Reich seconded a motion to approve the draft resolution regarding advisory decision supporting restoration of views. The motion passed 5-0.

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The public hearing was closed.

2. **TRP 11-222, Tree Removal Permit, Hicks, 118 Central Avenue.** Tree Removal Permit to allow the removal of one Coast Live Oak located on rear yard of the property located at 77 Harrison Avenue (APN 065-123-10).

The public hearing was opened.

Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

Committee question to staff:

- What killed the tree? *Staff responded the arborist did not specify as the tree was already dead.*

Vice-Chair Bickford moved and Committee Member Reich seconded a motion to approve a Tree Removal Permit for 118 Central Avenue. The motion passed 4-0 with Committee Member Liddell abstaining.

The public hearing was closed.

Old Business
None.

New Business

4. **Cost Estimates for Stump Grinding/Removal and Replanting, City of Sausalito.**

Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

Committee questions and comments to staff:

- Has the Committee sought the help of Public Works in getting them to cut trees significantly closer to the ground for aesthetic reasons? *Staff responded they have not talked to Public Works regarding cutting to the ground, however, stump grinding is not in the budget.*

3. **Special Presentation: Sudden Oak Death Workshop, Presented by US Cooperative Extension of Marin County's Outreach Coordinator, Janice Alexander.**

Ms. Alexander made a presentation to educate and inform the community on Sudden Oak Death disease and what can be done to save Sausalito's oak trees.

5. **Replacement Trees for Bank of America Public Right-of-Way.** City of Sausalito.

Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

Committee questions to staff:

- Why are the existing trees considered undesirable? *Staff responded in general the trees were becoming hazardous. One or two of the trees were diseased, one tree had a limb fall that almost hit a person, and there were issues with the roots. The arborist, Ed Gurka, has indicated all of the trees should be removed. The entire area is being re-landscaped.*
- Why does the arborist suggest all evergreens as replacements? *Staff responded most likely because of the size of the canopy spread, the trunk size and to install trees that will survive in that location.*

Staff Communications

- Department of Public Works Tree Maintenance Activities-September 2011 and October 2011: There are three locations in this report slated for removal of oak trees. Although an oak with Sudden Oak Death does not always have to be removed, if it is an imminent hazard, as these trees are, there is no other option. The City is required to keep the community safe.
- Status Report on the Investigation of Illegal Tree Removal/Alterations: These items will come forward to the Committee in January and February. Staff has begun research and investigation on the locations. Fines will be determined by the Trees & Views Committee.
- Meeting Procedures—Approved August 4, 2011: An informational item that the Committee has approved.
- American National Standards of Tree Care Operations (Tree Pruning): An informational item requested by the Committee. Two different management and pruning books for the Committee to study and discuss in future meetings regarding standard practices for altering or trimming trees.

Committee communications

- It would be nice to give our public speakers something to thank them for coming in and speaking to them, something from a local restaurant or shop. *Staff responded that unfortunately there is nothing in the budget to pay for gifts, but if any local restaurant or shop owners would like to donate, that would be fine.*

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by	Approved by
Jeremy Graves, AICP	Grant Colfax
Community Development Director	Chair