



Staff Report

Date: October 8, 2015
To: Mayor and Ross Town Council
From: Erik Masterson, Chief of Police
Subject: Council discussion regarding prohibiting parking on one side of East Road

Recommendation

Staff recommends Council direct the Chief of Police to establish one side of East Road for prohibited parking. The uphill side of East Road (north side) is recommended to be prohibited from parking.

Background and discussion

Due to a complaint from a resident on East Road of parked cars restricting access of emergency vehicles to be able to reach the end properties on East Road, the Council discussed restricting parking to one side of the street at its September Council meeting. This item was continued to the October Council meeting so property owners in the immediate vicinity could be noticed of the possibility of the parking restriction, and given opportunity to provide input on this issue.

Alternative actions

If the Council chooses not to restrict parking, the Police Department will continue to enforce the 12 foot restrictions as complaints are received. Enforcement is difficult as officers do not know which car parked legally and which violated the 12 foot clearance. Officers attempt to locate the car owner and have them move the car. The neighbors do not complain about this issue often, but are concerned if an emergency does arise and access is not available.

Environmental review (if applicable)

None

Attachments

- Nancy Dunlop letter dated September 18, 2015
- Jeff Kuhn email dated October 1, 2015

September 18, 2015

To: Ross Town Council

Ref: East Road

This is to request a dismissal of the red curb debate on East Road based on, but not exclusive to the following:

1. The false premise of the emergency vehicle's inability to reach #7 East Road.
2. Decisions based on one person when all the residents disagree.
3. The need for the even side of the road to be free.

#1 = I watched the unfolding of this distortion unfold when a fire truck stopped at #5 East Road in response to their call about strange odors. I could see inside the engine to the dash board, etc. Mr. Kuhn came home and could not drive past the engine because my car was parked parallel to the engine. The next morning he began espousing his concern that an emergency vehicle would not be able to get to his house. Looking at the situation he faced that assertion would be true, but I believe he translated that to a situation which did not exist. Any emergency vehicle would come down the street without a wide fire engine to contend with. The residents have focused diligently on making sure that two parallel parked cars are at a minimum of 12' apart. So I believe his worry over the safety of his family, while laudable, is based on the premise that a wide fire engine would be blocking an emergency vehicle.

#2 = The residents have now expressed their desire for a status quo twice on petitions. Are the majority to be ignored?

4= I am a patient at Marin Cancer Center at 1350 So. Eliseo getting treatments for lung cancer. I wish access to my home for family and medical professionals and if there is a red curb on the north side, laborers and residents will be forced to park there.

Nancy K. Dunlop, MSW

Linda Lopez

To: Erik Masterson
Subject: RE: 10/8 Agenda Item: East Road Parking

From: "Jeff Kuhn" <jeff@flgpartners.com>
To: "CouncilAll" <councilall@ross.townofross.org>
Cc: "Erik Masterson" <emasterson@townofross.org>
Subject: 10/8 Agenda Item: East Road Parking

Honorable Council Members and Chief Masterson,

I will be unable to attend the Oct 8 Council meeting due to a longstanding business conflict I cannot alter, so I offer my brief comments on this agenda item in this email.

This issue dates back to December 2013 when I first brought it to the attention of the Chief. We have lived on East Rd for 28 years, but it wasn't until the Ross Fire Dept. couldn't get down the street to investigate smoke in the house of my next door neighbor that I realized there was a problem (in my memory we've never had any emergency vehicles on the street before).

Simply put, East Road is too narrow to accommodate 2-sided parking and still provide for the ordinance-mandated 12 foot clearance for traffic. Five points:

— North Rd, which is significantly wider than East Rd, was converted to 1-sided parking shortly after we moved to Ross. Why not apply the same safety logic to East Rd?

— A year ago the Town erected a sign on the street warning of the 12 foot requirement, essentially asking for voluntary compliance with the ordinance. All neighbors were informed. It is routinely ignored. Two attached photos show a nearly-daily situation on East Rd: my car, in the center of the photos, is 6 feet wide and clearly shows that even a large SUV would be a tight fit. Firetruck or ambulance would be impossible.

— There is ample parking available on the south side of East Rd (the side closest to Lagunitas) for all on-street residence parking needs.

— Daytime parking is the worst, when contractors, delivery trucks, gardeners and others transit East Rd.

— Just this morning the Ross Firetruck was at the North/East/East intersection inspecting a suspected gas leak at #1 East. In conversation with them, it's very clear that they need and want more room to service the street.

I'm not looking forward to a red curb outside my house and loss of convenience to us or our guests, but safety surely must trump that. I hope you will agree and restrict parking on East Road to the southern side (closest to Lagunitas).

Thank you.

Jeffrey Kuhn
Managing Partner



