

New county flood maps undergo planning scrutiny

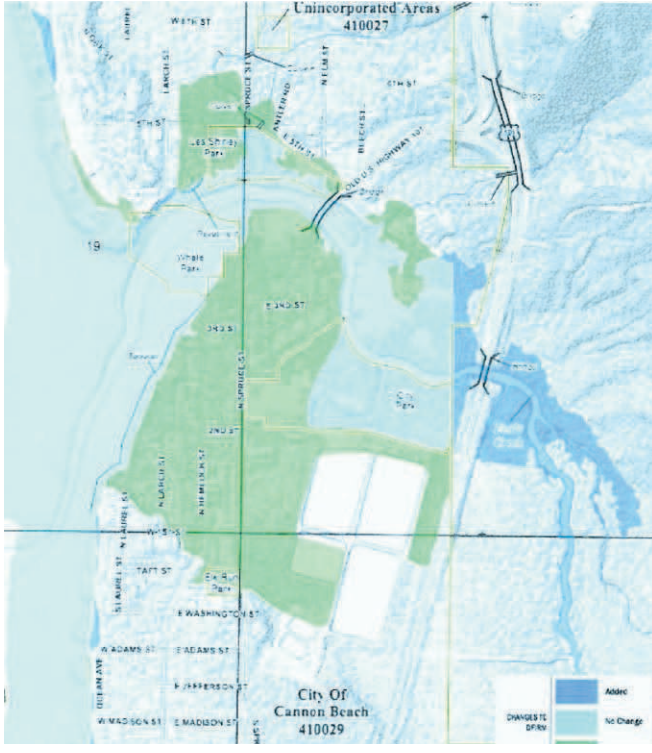
City Council to review maps at May meeting

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

The planning commission unanimously voted to recommend the city council adopt the new flood maps provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

A letter of determination, which ratifies the new maps, was sent by FEMA at the end of December, giving the city six months to either adopt or appeal the new maps.

The new flood plain hazard maps has long been a contentious issue in Cannon Beach. Since 2014, the new maps proposed by FEMA have shown flood hazard zones shrinking by 27 percent in Cannon Beach. The changes take almost all of downtown out of a zone that requires mandatory flood insurance.



FILE PHOTO

This FEMA flood plain map removes Cannon Beach's downtown area from the flood plain.

Adopting the new flood maps, which help delineate which businesses and homes are required to pay mandatory

THERE'S NOTHING ABOUT THIS CHANGE THAT CHANGES THE RISK OR THE HAZARDS.... IT JUST HAS TO DO WITH HOW MUCH YOU PAY FOR IT!

Frank Patrick

Breakers Point homeowner

FEMA flood insurance, were stalled by concerns with the draft coastal analysis in the Columbia River Estuary, as well as assessments of a levy in Warrenton.

While Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach raised no concerns about the maps, separating out these communities from the estuary would have been costly and logistically difficult, according to FEMA.

Many businesses owners, like Steve Sinkler, the owner of The Wine Shack and Lazy Susan's in downtown Cannon Beach, have been pressing to get these maps adopted for years as the current maps re-

quire many businesses to pay thousands in flood insurance that new maps show they don't need.

"It's important to business, and it's important to the city to adopt these," Sinkler said during public comment.

Breakers Point homeowner Frank Patrick urged the commission to recommend the maps to the City Council, as they virtually have "no downside" for Cannon Beach. Adopting these maps would also give businesses and homeowners that are currently in the flood zone an option for private flood insurance rather than being required to

participate in FEMA flood insurance, which can be cheaper or more suited to the needs of a particular home or business.

"There's nothing about this change that changes the risk or the hazards (of floods)," Patrick said. "It just has to do with how much you pay for it."

With little debate, planning commissioners vote to recommend the new maps to the city council for adoption in May. The city must vote to adopt the maps before the end of June if the city still wishes to participate in the FEMA flood insurance program. Not doing so could result in penalties, City Planner Mark Barnes said.

Bruce Francis, manager of Breakers Point and a longtime proponent of the new maps, commended the planning commission for taking a step in the "right direction."

"For those of us who have been around for 40 years, the update just makes sense," he said.

CANNON BEACH POLICE LOG

March 30

2:56 p.m., 200 block W. Gulcana: After a complaint regarding a dog at large, a dog owner was advised of the leash law by police.

8:27 p.m., 3400 block S. Hemlock: Fireworks are reported.

11:24 p.m., Elk Creek Cache Site: Subjects are warned of overnight camping.

March 31

2:58 a.m., 3400 block S. Hemlock: Police conduct a welfare check.

12 p.m., Beach: A key found on the beach is turned in to police.

2:48 p.m.: Spruce Parking Lot: A caller concerned about some dogs inside a car calls police to report. The vehicle is gone before police arrival.

3:14 p.m., 300 block Elk Creek Road: Subpoena service is completed.

3:34 p.m. 300 block Elk Creek Road: Subpoena service is completed.

3:45 p.m., Police station: A red Fiat

500 is reported looping through the parking lot; a passenger is observed to be filming, videotaping, or photographing the police department. The vehicle never stopped.

6:20 p.m., Haystack Rock: Subjects are warned for climbing the rock.

April 1

10:07 p.m., 100 block W. Madison: A dog terrified of a fire alarm and ran off is safely reunited with its owner.

April 2

12:21 a.m., Tolovana Wayside: Subjects are warned for overnight camping.

12:39 a.m., Stephanie Inn: Subjects staying at a motel are reported as behaving in a suspicious manner. They tell police they are just listening to music in their car.

3:11 p.m., Elk Creek Terrace: A lost dog is reunited with its owner.

April 3

1:06 p.m., Highway 101, milepost

26: A man reported lost is located.

1:28 p.m., Highway 101, milepost 26: Police put out flares to assist the driver of a cement mixer that lost a tire.

April 4

10:07 a.m., Warren Way: Officers assist public works clearing debris off the highway.

2:24 p.m., Ecola Park: A person who fell is assisted.

April 5

1:49 p.m., 200 block N. Hemlock: A generator is reported missing.

3:41 p.m., Police station: An air gun and ammunition are turned into police for destruction.

9:00 p.m., 1500 block S. Roosevelt: Police assist Seaside police with a subject believed to be high on methamphetamine.

April 6

11:20 a.m., 1500 block Spruce: The owner of utility trailer parked in the

same place on the street for months was notified by police to move it. Owner advised he would relocate the vehicle.

4:12 p.m., 3600 block E. Chinook: Police respond to a report of possible child neglect to follow medical direction for a child with an arm fracture. Deemed not a criminal issue, a cross report to the Department of Human Services was made.

10:02 p.m., 3400 block S. Hemlock: Police respond to a report of barking dogs left unattended in a motel room. Motel owner wanted police to impound the dogs but was informed that was not an option. Police contacted the dogs' owner who was in the room and said they would keep the dogs quiet.

April 7

11:50 a.m., 2800 block Pacific: A wallet found outside on the ground near a hotel was returned to its owner.

8:31 p.m., Highway 101, MP 33.7: Police respond to a report of a per-

son in possible distress waving their arms trying to flag down traffic. The highway was checked from Silver Point to Arch Cape Tunnel to Hug Point and Arcadia Beach without results.

April 8

4:51 p.m., 100 block W. Gower: Drone use is reported; complainant says operator directed the drone to hover outside of hotel rooms. Police were unable to locate.

April 9

1:44 p.m., Beach 'n Brew: Suspicious circumstances are reported.

4:48 p.m., Ocean and Monroe: Officer responds to a report of a possible disturbance. No criminality was found.

April 10

2:43 a.m., 3400 block S. Hemlock: A white SUV with no plates is reported as suspicious. Vehicle was gone when police arrived. Extra patrols are requested.

3:15 p.m., RV resort: A person is arrested for a warrant.

April 11

12:14 p.m., Hemlock: Person reports their vehicle is missing. Officer locates the vehicle. Owner said they had moved the vehicle but forgot where they parked it.

3:10 p.m., 100 block Nelchena: A subject who keeps walking on private party is warned of trespass.

10:11 p.m., 1100 block Spruce: A person upset over an ongoing neighbor dispute reports coming home to find neighbor is videotaping her and her child.

April 12

3:34 a.m., 1100 block S. Hemlock: Subject calls to report she is being followed by her neighbor. Police are unable to locate the neighbor.

10:36 a.m. 100 block W. Jackson: Reporting party requests a restraining order; extra patrols are added to the area.

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