



Center photo: Sienna M Potts

January 2022 Caspar Community News

CASPAR 2030

*Is Community Enough,
or Should We Create a Town?*

by Michael St. John & Patty Parks-Wasserman

With the purchase and then expansion of the Community Center building in 1990(?), Casparados took a huge step in the creation of community here in Caspar. Gatherings are temporarily limited by Covid, but pub night, Sunday breakfasts, and a diversity of classes and celebratory events have drawn people together at the Community Center in pursuits they enjoy for twenty something years. There is more “community” here in Caspar than in any other place we have known.

But Caspar isn't yet a town, as it was before the Caspar Lumber Company ceased operation in 1956(?). Progress toward “township” has been inhibited by the ownership of so much of “downtown” Caspar by the Caspar Cattle Company. Efforts were made, but those efforts have not been successful to date. Now that impediment has been removed, it would seem. The Caspar Cattle Company lands are now owned by people who value community and would like to participate as Casparados in the development of a viable town.

Since moving to Caspar in November 2021, Patty and I have been talking non-stop with our new neighbors and other Casparados about their and our visions for the future of Caspar. We look forward to the community meeting scheduled for the 16th. I will set out below ideas/topics that we have heard from others and considered ourselves that might be discussed at that meeting and thereafter:

Is Community enough..? concludes on page 2

**Caspar
COMMUNITY
VIRTUAL via ZOOM
MEETING
January 16th 4pm**

Introducing

**Ariana Bayer and Josh
MacDonald**

**And their daughters Willa and Neva
(bought the southern portion of the
former Caspar Cattle Company
property)**

&

**Patty Parks-Wasserman and
Michael St. John
(bought the northern portion of the
former Caspar Cattle Company
property)**

**Come welcome
our new neighbors
and hear their dreams
and share our dreams.**

*If you have not received
a Zoom Invitation, email
lists@casparcommons.org
**BEFORE NOON on Sunday,
January 16th***

IN THIS EDITION:

Josh & Ariana's map

Bulletin from the Future!

Is Community enough..? concludes

- The Community Center might be expanded to include the Rural Village (RV) lot to the South so that there could be a town square there. The CCC parking lot would in this vision serve the Community Center, the playground, the community garden, and structures occupying the RV lot on the corner.
- We imagine that the structures, connected by a boardwalk, would face in, not out. There might be a coffee shop / bakery. There might be an open but covered structure that would allow a local farmers' market to operate year-round. There might be a general store that would provide Casparados with the essentials of life. Such a store might also display and sell local craft items and foods. Kids could play safely in the playground while their parents shop or chat with friends over coffee and scones.
- The Duck Pond, in a related vision, would be in community ownership. There might be a path around the pond, with a boardwalk and bridges over marshy areas, and meaningful, relevant signage. The Mendocino Land Trust might hold a conservation easement on the pond and the land surrounding the pond, ensuring its permanent preservation for the benefit of the community.
- Conceivably there might be an agricultural easement preventing the development of structures other than farm buildings and farm worker housing on much of the land. Parts of the land might be developed as mini farms, other parts as pasture lands.

Additional housing within walking distance of the town square and Community Center – using “density transfers” from the Caspar Headlands

State Park land - would add places for people to live in the heart of the town. There might be apartments above the stores.

- Some or all the newly acquired lands might be organized as an agricultural or community land trust so that land values would not make these farms and housing unaffordable to future generations.
- The water resource – another valuable community asset - might be developed as a water district or a mutual water company, ensuring a continuously reliable water source for homes and businesses in downtown Caspar. It seems fitting that the responsibility to provide water to residents be a collective responsibility, not the responsibility of a single landowner, as at present.
- State Parks might be encouraged to minimally develop the Caspar Headlands State Park with signage, paths, boardwalks, and fencing, making the headlands a walkable location for residents and visitors.
- The Caspar Inn, now for sale, might be developed to serve Casparados rather than visitors from afar, as in the past. A local restaurant would help establish a sense of “township”, it would seem.

These are ideas that have surfaced to date. We are eager to hear other ideas about how these lands might be preserved and developed to the benefit of the community in the coming years, and for this reason look forward to the meeting planned for January 16th and subsequent meetings on these topics.

– *Patty & Michael*

15101 Caspar Road, Caspar

1/4/2022

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If you have not received a Zoom Invitation, email lists@casparcommons.org BEFORE NOON on Sunday, January 16th

Josh & Ariana's Interactive map

Caspar Overview

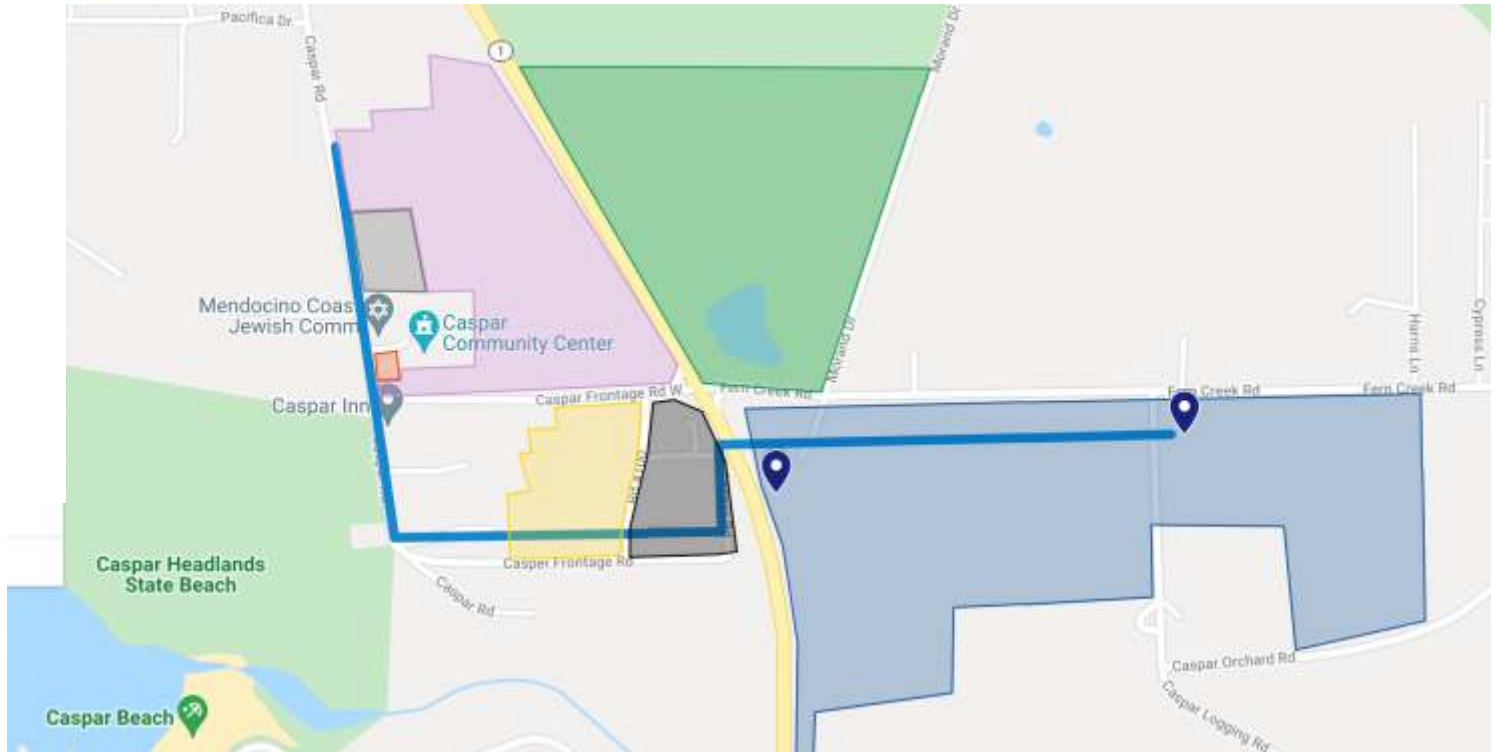
The former Caspar Cattle Company lands have been sold to two parties, Michael St. John (north half) and Josh and Ariana (south half).

-  Water main
-  Upper well site
-  Lower well site
-  St. John / West pasture
-  St. John / Residences
-  St. John / East pasture
-  St. John / Rural Village parcel
-  Josh and Ariana / 9 acres
-  Josh and Ariana / Residences
-  Josh and Ariana / Caspar wa...

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screenshot January 3rd 11:20 am



Gardening in Caspar

The Caspar Community Garden (behind the Community Center) will have openings for new gardeners starting February 17, 2022. Individual plots and greenhouse space with some shared responsibilities and tools, organic materials, and sustainable methods. If interested, please contact annielee@hotmail.com

This edition of
Caspar Community News
was laid out by Michael Potts

Submissions of activities, events, or information of interest to Casparados is invited. Send them to lists@casparcommons.org

We  Caspar

Bulletin from the Future!

By Belva Deare, Future Correspondent
Caspar, Friday, 17 December 2100

Preparations for this weekend's holiday celebration at the Community Center are heating up. Several Casparados spent this week in the community greenhouse harvesting zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants, and a bumper crop of Meyers lemons. The Coho Authority has earmarked several big fish for the main course, and of course there will be trout from the treatment ponds. A big cooking party is planned for tomorrow in the communal kitchen at Caspar Place, where residents have been working all week on appropriate party favors. You may remember that several boxes of old records from the early days of Caspar -- CD memory disks with old photos of Caspar before all the automobiles and power lines were gone. Well, you can't imagine how hard it was to find a CD player that could read that crusty old format! Several of the images have been cleaned up and will be spliced onto the walls during dinner. Of course we're all looking forward to seeing the footage of Noyo bridge collapsing in the 2006 Quake again. Many elders say that's when Caspar really came into its own as the Community with a Future.

The party starts Saturday evening at sundown with the dedication of the new Restoration Center. Governor Tarbell will be on hand. I wouldn't miss this for the world, she said. Imagine planners a hundred years ago setting aside land for future use! They were truly ahead of their time! Special trains from Westport and Elk have been scheduled to bring those who consider themselves Casparados even though they are temporarily habbed elsewhere, and a selfless crew of Solar Taxistas will keep the shuttle running as long as necessary. There will be a Solstice Bonfire and Headlands Commemoration at midnight. As always, those with habs in downtown Caspar will be opening their Murphys for visitors who want to stay overnight. If earlier celebrations give any hints, the dancing will probably last until dawn.

On Sunday, the traditional History Walk will begin at 2pm at the Community Center. Heirs of several of the First Stewards will guide walkers through some of the heritage homes not usually open to visitors. We are very fortunate to have so many old-style habs preserved in such good condition, and it's always instructive to see how our forebearers used precious substances like redwood and water as if they didn't live in a closed system! The walk will end with the traditional wreath-placing and gorse wine tasting ceremony at Ancestors' Square.

Your correspondent always gets misty when thinking about the differences between Caspar and the Rest of the World where pavement covers all and every rooftop produces grain and rice. We are so lucky to eat meals made with fruits and vegetables out of a greenhouse rather than staples from a foodfax. And to celebrate under a roof that still echoes from our ancestors celebrating a century ago! No hundred years has ever been so full of change as this last one, yet here in Caspar, so many Good Things survive from the Old Days, surrounded by such a healthy ecos of coho, osprey, redwoods, burrowing owls, kelp, deer, bear, poppies, otters, whales, and mountain lions. We are so fortunate to live here!