

On Saturday November 17 the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District voted to adopt a resolution authorizing the District to enter into a lease agreement with the Sleepy Hollow Charitable Foundation (SHCF) with the consent of the Sleepy Hollow Homes Association (SHHA) for District public facilities at 1317 Butterfield Road. The new community center will serve dual use as a Preparedness Center, a facility that will be used to provide safety information to the public, hold meetings, conduct trainings, organize our Community Preparedness Coordinator Program, and provide an office for the District.

In addition the Center can be used as an all hazards emergency shelter containing emergency power, heat, medical and other emergency supplies such as flashlights, hand tools, portable generators, food/water, cots, etc. Hopefully we will never have to put it to this use. We recognize that in the event of a truly catastrophic wildfire like the North Bay fires or the Camp Fire, we may need to evacuate outside of Sleepy Hollow. But that is the rare event. It is more likely that we will experience a small to medium fire. Such a routine fire would likely be contained and controlled in less than 24 hours and residents would be able to return home or stay comfortably over night if necessary. Similarly in a weather related disaster we would have a site to get up to date information, recharge electronic devices, warm up, share a cup of coffee with or help neighbors.

The SHFPD Board appreciates the fact that so many community members have taken the time over the last five years to participate in the development of this project. The lease agreement has overwhelming support among Sleepy Hollow residents and we look forward to working with the Charitable Foundation and Homes Association to get this project completed.

On another note, we are all aware that there is poor cell phone coverage in Sleepy Hollow. Both the Homes Association and the District have met with cell phone providers to see if coverage can be improved, but the geography of Sleepy Hollow makes it difficult without adding more cell sites. The Marin Board of Supervisors, which is the authorizing agency, is studying expansion and deployment of cellular wireless service. Meanwhile our Fire Board is joining with other Marin public agencies to explore installation of an outdoor warning system. These modern systems can warn the public of both man made and natural events such as wildfire, flood, or chemical release. The systems are capable of issuing a tone followed by audible voice instructions. On December 4, the LRAD corporation will be conducting an acoustic study in Sleepy Hollow which might include an audible test.