

SWARM Board Meeting
May4, 2026
6:30 pm - Fish residence Second Gate

In Attendance

John O’Claire, Catrina Fish, Laura Corben, Paloma Hill, Paula Geroux, Karl Fisher
Meeting opened at 6:20 and closed at 7:20pm

Insurance

John O’Claire reported that the Insurance cost with California Commercial Insurance Company have doubled from \$2,000 a year to \$4,000 a year. Insurance covers liability for anyone hurt on the road and also a policy to protect the board members themselves from being sued. This follows a trend throughout the State for rising insurance costs.

Fuel Reduction

Paloma Hill brought copies of Landowner Agreement forms to distribute to landowners. Sherwood Firewise has secured the funding through a CalFire grants and is presently doing clearing in Brooktrails. Work is being done by licensed contractors at NO COST to property owners using small tools except for a chipper and NO herbicides or burning. John O’Claire has a map of properties that have agreed to the project and word is going out to residents by word of mouth. Contact info@sherwoodfirewise.org Nick Collier, the supervisor for the project expects that crews will not get to the Gates until late summer, fall, or even next year. Property owners are already expected to be sure that the roads are not obstructed by vegetation.

Current Road Repairs – April 2026

President John O’Claire reported on the grading and roadwork just completed by Bud Garman cost:
1st Gate - \$6,500 including 3 transfers of materials, water truck, grader, and roller, work crew 1 day
2nd Gate - \$6,500 including 3 transfers of materials, water truck, grader, and roller, work crew 1 day
3rd Gate - \$13,000 including 6 transfers of materials, water truck, grader, and roller, work crew 2 days
It is agreed that the roads have been in much better condition since thorough grading was done in the Spring of 2025. John O’Claire also reminded the board of the work he does to check the roads for problems, order materials and contract for repairs. Eventually these responsibilities should be shared with board members or approved volunteers so that they can contact Bud Garman themselves.

Website and other Administrative Concerns

A motion was made and passed that we should pay Brian Corzillis for work he has done on the SWARM website. It was also passed that we ask for the domain name sherwoodgates.org be transferred to a new revised website as well as old content migrated to a new site. James O’Claire has offered to help accomplish the preliminary tasks to establish a site that will be accessible and maintained by the current board.

There is a need to establish a physical address for SWARM, a way for payments to be made online, and to have our bookkeeper able to work with funds that are deposited online.

Upcoming Events

Summer board meeting to be held on June 14th. The Annual Road Meeting and Potluck is planned for Saturday, August 15th at Brownie Pelfry’s on Third Gate.

Laura Corben, Secretary