

Moss, Julia

From: skip allan <skipallan@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 1:16 PM
To: City Council; CapitolaDPW
Cc: allan skip
Subject: June 22 Grand Ave. Geologic Discussion

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6/13/2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Though not a Depot Hill resident, I've regularly walked and relaxed along the public path on the Grand Ave. cliff for near 50 years. Along the way I've admired the finest and most historical of views overlooking Monterey Bay, admiring sea life and vistas, sun and moon rises, as well as meeting friends from all over the world on this delightful and user friendly path.

As you know, the Grand Ave. public right-of-way continues to be compromised and closed in sections due to erosion and cliff collapse on its south side as well as encroachments by homeowners' walls, fences, cement steps, and hedges on its north side. Some of these encroachments extend as far as 10-20 feet into the right-of-way from property lines. As former director of Public Works Steve Jesberg can verify, these property encroachments into Grand Ave. are revocable and never meant to be of permanent nature.

Before more of our beautiful walkway and window on the Bay is considered for closure due to a doom and gloom geology report, my family and neighbors ask that Capitola City Council and Public Works request property owners to return their fences, barriers and landscaping to their property lines so the Grand Ave. path can continue to be safely used rather than closed to public enjoyment. Indeed, this action was unanimously mandated by Capitola City Council members Termini, Harlan, Norton, and Nicol on March 24, 2005 (report 940-15) when it was written that the "City of Capitola maintain an 8 foot pathway along the Grand Ave. right-of-way, and that the public pathway would remain until such time as it diminishes and is no longer usable."

Some concerned citizens have asked "where are the property lines?" My reply is Capitola has survey maps, including a comprehensive one by Bowman&Williams on Dec. 23, 1999 that clearly delineate property lines and encroachments. Since that time, visible survey markers have been placed along Grand Ave. properties when proposed projects have been presented to the City for permitting.

Certainly we are aware that eventually "Nature will Take Its Course" along Grand Ave. That may be years in the future. In the meantime it will cost the City of Capitola little to nothing to have encroachments removed so residents, neighbors, and visitors alike can continue to enjoy Grand Ave. public right-of-way.

Thank you for your consideration.

~Skip Allan 310 McCormick Ave., Capitola, 95010, 831-475-0278, skipallan@sbcglobal.net