



**Tiburon
Peninsula
Foundation**
P.O. Box 210
Belvedere-Tiburon,
CA 94920

October 3, 2013

To: Bonnie Grossman, Marin Community Foundation

From: Arlene M. Nielsen, Tiburon Peninsula Foundation *A. Nielsen*

Re: Final Report, Carol Ann and Dennis Rockey Fund Grant

THE BOARD

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We received this grant of \$25,000 from the Carol Ann and Dennis Rockey Fund to clear, clean and beautify the area around the old railroad track berm at Blackie's Pasture in Tiburon.

The area had become overgrown and unattractive. The trestle remains at the end of the berm, an important historical element for a town that began as the railroad connection between the North Bay and San Francisco, were falling. The Town of Tiburon had tried over the years to get agreement on a master plan and one was prepared in 1982. It was very ambitious and expensive and many objected that it did not respect the historical elements.

The Tiburon Peninsula Foundation has traditionally been the "stewards of Blackie's Pasture." Dennis and Carol Ann Rockey knew us when we fundraised for Blackie's statue and began planning and supporting community events there.

Carol Ann and Dennis Rockey would now be proud of Blackie's Trestle Berm! We were not asked to publicize their contribution but we were happy and honored to always show our appreciation for this very generous grant. This project could not have been accomplished without these funds.

As we stated upon receipt, we were confident the money could be put to good use. The Tiburon Peninsula Foundation has no staff but has a long history of working with volunteers and of partnering with others to accomplish our goals. We have spent \$21,906.57. The Town of Tiburon paid the \$3,450 cost of the hydro seeding. The Master Gardeners contributed the materials for the seed balls.

The pending projects, already in the planning stage, will be more than the \$3,093.43 remaining from the Grant. The Tiburon Peninsula Foundations will supplement any monies needed.

Expenses

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Garcia's Landscaping	\$ 7,961.18	Vegetation, cutting, chipping, disposing.
Redwood Engineering	\$12,707.89	Debris collection & disposal. Contouring and leveling. Erosion control & drainage.
Kristin Jakob	\$ 262.50	Horticultural consultation
Historical plaque stands	\$ 975.00	2 cortan steel stands for plaques
TOTAL:	\$21,906.57	

We have not monetized the volunteer contributions.

- Ed Lynch, TPF Vice President (2010-2012) Tiburon Fire Battalion Chief, supervised Phases III and IV, the cleaning and contouring,
- Cristina Poindexter, Graduate Engineering Student, UC, prepared the elevations to restore the area to the 1982 map as required by the Town.
- Harvey Rogers and James Campbell supervised Phase V, the beautification,
- Dave Gotz, Landmarks, spent several days clearing broom and vegetation and supervised the stabilization of the trestle remains.
- James Campbell and the Peninsula Master Gardeners organized the making of the seed balls at Reed School and the fun Seed Toss at the Berm.

Tiburon Peninsula Foundation partners in this project are:

- The Town of Tiburon
- The Belvedere Tiburon Landmarks Society
- The local chapter of Master Gardeners

Phase I:

Determining the Scope:

The area around and on top of the old railroad berm had become so covered with vegetation that it was impossible to make an intelligent plan without clearing it first.

Tiburon Town Council and staff had faith in us and allowed us to proceed with an exploration. They agreed that the first step would be to clear away the growth and see what was there. They were very helpful in facilitating this process. We had to get the endorsement of the Parks and Open Space Committee and final approval from the Council. Staff provided guidance and maps. All fees were waived.

Phase II:

Clearing the area.

We set out to remove the vegetation in order to find out what was hidden by all the growth on top and on the sides of the berm and also the area surrounding it. With the help

of volunteers, principally led by Dave Gotz, Landmarks' Archivist, we started this undertaking. Soon we learned that professional assistance was needed. We contracted with Garcia's Landscaping Company. They chopped and cut and cleared several truckloads of vegetation that were taken to the dump to be recycled. Jim Wood, of the Green Team, and now on the TPF board, introduced us to this very competent landscape company and we were able to negotiate a good price.

Phase III:

Cleaning the area of debris.

To no one's surprise, we discovered mounds of dirt, discarded tree stumps and posts, broken concrete slabs... We learned we needed to bring a tractor and a large dump truck to remove the remaining debris. We contracted with Redwood Engineering to haul away several large truckloads. TPF Vice President, Battalion Chief Ed Lynch, was able to negotiate very favorably with this local company.

Phase IV:

Restoring the contour of the land as much as possible to the plan the Town of Tiburon had on file from 1982.

Essential conditions were: a) safety, b) good drainage and c) ease in maintaining the area. Mounds of dirt had been dumped altering the flow of water on the slope. A graduate student in engineering at UC Berkeley, Cristina Poindexter, volunteered and provided us with the proper elevations to restore the grading according to the record map. We were again able to contract with Redwood Engineering to do the grading of the ground around the berm. Ed Lynch worked with Town Public Works staff to insure the drainage was properly connected and he supervised the leveling including doing away with several dangerous improvised bike ramps that had been created.

Phase V:

Beautifying the area and protecting it from harmful erosion.

Following the advise of our partner, Harvey Rogers, long time Master Gardener and prime mover and creator of Blackie's Garden, we decided to hydro seed the area with a mixture of wildflower seeds. We retained a native plant specialist to advise us and, with Harvey's assistance, we contracted with a hydro seeding company, Freedlun Hydroseeding. The Town of Tiburon covered this cost of \$2,250. We also had great volunteer help from James Campbell and other Master Gardeners, and the children of Reed School. They made seed balls of a mixture of wild flower seeds and clay and organized a fun seed toss on the sides of the berm.

Unfortunately, the rain did not come at the perfect time so we did not have the gorgeous display we had hoped. The California poppies did come through and we had no erosion problems.

Pending projects in Phase V:

The Town asked us to help "beautify" the side of the road at Trestle Glen and we facilitated meetings with Town staff and our Master Gardeners partners. Last spring, we were prepared to help implement their proposals. However, the Town embarked on a

major re design of all signs and approaches to the downtown, and the plans for the road side along the curve at Blackie's have been delayed. The Town Council and staff are currently planning a major campaign to beautify the medians along Tiburon Blvd. and we assume this will also include our earlier plans.

When we were discussing the hydro seeding process, we briefly explored other ways to prepare the soil and broadcast wildflower seeds. We hope this coming year we can try again perhaps on a smaller area.

Phase VI:

Stabilize the remains of the trestle, the wooden structure at the end of the berm.

This was a very important goal for our partners, the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society. David Gotz, Landmarks' Archivist, investigated the proper procedures that needed to be followed and, at their request and under Dave's supervision, we again contracted with Redwood Engineering to buttress the structure. Dave was able to get several discarded telephone poles donated.

Phase VII:

Placement of historical/instructional plaques. Pending.

The iron stands have been purchased. TPF and Landmarks have partnered in the past in the creating and installing a series of "then and now" plaques along the old railroad tracks, now a historical path. Dave has located a fabulous picture in the Archives of a young boy standing on the old tracks. We had hoped to place this ON the berm, near the restored remains and on the exact spot from where the picture had been taken; however, Town staff has determined that the location would not be appropriate since it would be prohibitively expensive to comply with all the ADA requirements. Based on our experience creating, manufacturing and installing other historical plaques, we have budgeted \$4,000 to place one near the remains of the trestle bridge. We will have to find a location at the base of the berm and go through the permitting process to build a cement pad and install the stand and plaque.

We will also be working with the Master Gardeners to create and install an instructional plaque.

Other remaining work:

We did not clear the inside corner of the angle formed by the berm and Tiburon Blvd. principally because we worried about not being able to cover all before the rains arrived but also because we thought we would not have enough money to address it.

We do plan to finish clearing and cleaning the last portion of the north side of the berm where it makes a narrowing angle between it and Tiburon Blvd. We have budgeted an additional \$5,000 to complement the \$25,000 of the original grant for this.

Town Manager, Peggy Curran, seemed receptive to a proposal to hire a flock of goats to clear the inside and to trim the sides and top of the berm. The tenacious invasive broom now covering the corner would not have a chance of surviving!

The final goal is to leave the entire area so that it can be maintained clear and beautiful on an ongoing basis. Tiburon Public Works has incorporated most of the area we were able

to clear into their maintenance schedule and now mow the flat areas. We have not yet finalized a plan for the sides and top of the berm that may have to be done with weed eaters.

Acknowledgements:

Peggy Curran, Tiburon Town Manager, was supportive and encouraging from the very beginning. She instructed staff to assist us as much as possible.

David Gotz, Archivist, Belvedere Tiburon Landmarks Society, was the most diligent volunteer. He enthusiastically showed up with his chain saw when we attempted to clear the top of the berm. He had the vision on how to properly stabilize the remains.

Harvey Rogers, Master Gardener Supreme, the creative genius behind Blackie's Garden, a beautiful demonstration garden at the entrance to the Pasture, has been a long time partner of the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation. He joined the team with courage and unflagging enthusiasm and was our technical supervisor during the beautification phase.

James Campbell, Master Gardener, was the inspiration and leader of the seed toss project. He enlisted Reed School children, supervised the making of the seeds and organized the tossing of the balls on the side of the berm.

Ed Lynch, Battalion Chief, Tiburon Fire and Vice President of the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation (1910-1912) was indispensable with his knowledge of the practical aspects of clearing, hauling and grading. He was the first line of supervision during the cleaning, leveling and grading phases. His many local contacts and friendships greatly facilitated our progress.

Attachments to official report:

1. Financial documentation
2. Official correspondence, chronological
3. Correspondence with Tammie Fraser, Trustee of Rockey Fund
4. Newspaper coverage