

**CONTRA COSTA HILLS CLUB
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2026**

The September board meeting was held virtually through Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by President Stew.

Board members present: Stew Perlman, Mike Branning, Connie Gee, Roland Hebert, Helen Johe, Suzy Mark, Cameron Mitchell, Lucy Perdichizzi

Absent: Jim Baranowski, Rosemary Johnson

Minutes Approved: Board Meeting on August 14, 2026 – The motion was made by Connie and Cameron; seconded by Suzy. The motion was carried.

President's Report: "As we welcome September, we can enjoy some terrific hikes this month. The highlights will be on September 17, when we celebrate Jo Anne Schultz's 90th birthday at Quarry Lakes in Fremont. And the following week, after a hike to a number of landmarks in Central Berkeley led by Noël Siver, we can rejoice at Jan Lecklikner's home with an ice cream social to celebrate her sparkling new remodel. Keep in mind that there are other fun hikes this month; just check the hiking schedule.

The next quarter of hikes is in great need of hike leaders. Please contact Jim Baranowski for Thursday hikes and Marilyn Vihman for Sunday hikes. Just an alert: Marsha Maslan is leading a Saturday hike on September 5 to Tomales Point.

I hope that everyone is doing well and as always thanks to those of you who generously give your time to CCHC. Take care.

Respectfully submitted,
Stew Perlman"

Update, September 11: "I hope that everyone is doing well. The Thursday hike was canceled because of the heat. It was a prudent decision, especially in light of the scientific research as to how heat affects us older folks.

Otherwise, we have had successful hikes the past few weeks."

Vice President's Report: No report due to Jim's absence

Knapsack: No report due to Jim's absence

Membership: There are no new members. We still have 172 members.

Conservation Committee Requests:

The Conservation Committee did not meet this month so there were no payment requests.

Bills:

Mailbox Renewal: \$538.00 for one year, due Sept 30th
Connie Gee: *Knapsack* postage \$26.24 (new rate .82)

CCHC's Post Office Box at El Cerrito Post Office:

When it was mentioned that CCHC's Post Office Box at the El Cerrito post office is up for renewal on September 30 for the fee of \$538 for one year, this sparked a lengthy debate. Of the nine members of the board present at the meeting, two individuals were strongly in

favor of renewing it. Cameron, who is currently CCHC's treasurer, thinks the P.O. Box should not be renewed in order to save the club money. She asked if we thought that having the P.O. Box was serving the club's needs.

Approximately 95% of the mail that is addressed to CCHC's Post Office Box is for the club's Conservation Committee. Beryl Vonderheid, who is the chairman of the Conservation Committee, does not go to the post office in El Cerrito to collect the mail. Instead, the mail is collected twice a month by Lois Switzer who is a resident of nearby Albany. The box is currently in Lois Switzer's name. Lois was previously a member of the Conservation Committee but is no longer. According to Cameron, there is no one who is currently a member of the Conservation Committee who is willing to go to the Post Office in El Cerrito.

One suggestion was to change the club's mailing address to the home address of a member. But if the member was not a member of the Conservation Committee, would that solve the problem? If the home address of a member were to be used, would their address be added to the solicitation lists of other organizations?

Suzy suggested that the club pay for six months instead of a year. That would give us time to try to come up with an alternative arrangement. Stew thought we should table this matter, pay for six months, and look into finding a member who would be willing to be responsible for dealing with the matter. Helen moved that we pay for six months. Lucy and Suzy seconded. After some further discussion, there was a second motion made by Suzy and seconded by Lucy and Helen. Everyone except Cameron approved of this plan.

After the board meeting, Cameron emailed Lois and asked how mail for the Conservation Committee is delivered to Beryl. Lois explained that she currently delivers the mail to either Jo Anne Schultz or Kate Steinel*, both of whom are members of the Conservation Committee and residents of El Cerrito. For now, Lois is still willing to continue to collect the mail from the club's PO Box.

*As of today, Kate Steinel has not renewed her membership in CCHC and so is probably no longer a member of the Conservation Committee.

On September 27 Noël phoned Beryl, told her about the lengthy debate regarding whether or not to renew the rental of the mailbox at El Cerrito Post Office. When Noël told Beryl that approximately 95% of the mail received at that address was for the Conservation Committee and that the annual rental fee was \$538, Beryl said that the Conservation Committee would not be willing to pay for it. Her suggestion was to try a different Post Office and/or to rent a smaller size box. When asked, Beryl said she would be willing to have any and all mail for CCHC go to her address. Since none of us is getting any younger, is that a realistic solution?

Corresponding Secretary: Helen sent a card to Sharon Wang. She will bring a card to Jo Anne Schultz's birthday event on September 17.

Old Business:

September 1: Suzy, Noël, and Stew worked on the **archives** at Yvonne's home for some three plus hours as we continue to plug along. On September 18, Suzy, Noël, and Yvonne continued rehousing the archives.

Suzy Mark: The **bench renewal from East Bay Regional Park District** will be mailed to Patricia Derickson's address and so we need to change the address and contact person.

The contact page 1 item 4b.

"At the ninth year, a notice will be sent to the Donor at the address provided on the agreement.

"If the Donor does not respond by the end of the tenth year, or the letter is returned, the plaque will be removed and stored for one year at the Chief of Park Operations office. If the Donor contacts the District after ten-year period has expired and the plaque is removed, the District will have no obligation to honor the bench as a memorial and the plaque will become the property of the District."

The contract does not show the signatures of Park Supervisor or AGM of Operations.

Patricia Derickson signed the contract 11/11/2017. The date on the check for \$2500.00 is December 8, 2017.

Bench renewal will be \$2200.00.

Lucy Perdichizzi: The need/hope is to find **someone to take over the *Extracurricular*** when Lois retires after the December issue.

Update: When we circled up ahead of an urban walk on Thursday, September 24, Stew introduced **Beth Johnke** as the new coordinator of the ***Extracurricular***.

New Business: As a result of making several phone calls, Stew managed to learn the contact details of the East Bay Regional Park District employee who deals with memorial benches. Stew gave Cameron Connie Swisher's phone number. Suzy volunteered to contact Connie. On September 25, in reply to a phone conversation with Suzy, Connie Swisher sent her an email that includes the file number for the Harold French bench.

From: Connie Swisher <CSwisher@ebparks.org>

Sent: Sep 25, 2026 9:15 AM

To: SuzyMark@jps.net <SuzyMark@jps.net>

Cc: Memorial Bench <memorialbench@ebparks.org>

Subject: East Bay Regional Park District Memorial Bench SIB_MB_003

"I have updated our records with the contact information you provided below.

Please be advised that the bench is scheduled for renewal on January 31, 2028. You can expect to receive an email in late 2027 asking whether you would like to continue participating in the Memorial Bench Program. At that time, we will also provide additional information regarding the new 10-year agreement.

Updated info: Contra Costa Hills Club

PO Box 2056 El Cerrito, CA 94530

Suzy Mark

415-577-1869

SuzyMark@jps.net"

Adjournment: 11:01 motion to adjourn made by Connie, seconded by Helen. Carried.

Next Virtual Meeting: October 9, 2026

Respectfully submitted:

Noël Siver, Recording Secretary