

# **Cape Meares Community Overview February 2019**

Cape Meares is a very small residential coastal community a 15-minute drive from city of Tillamook and close to the Tillamook Bay, Bayocean Spit and Cape Meares Lake.

There are about 200 homes in CM, with 62 of them occupied by full-time residents. There are 27 short term rentals registered with Tillamook County with many people visiting the community especially in the summer. There are no commercial businesses in Cape Meares. The community joined the Oceanside Water District in 1995. Water for Cape Meares comes primarily from Coleman Creek. Cape Meares has no sewer system and relies on septic tanks. Tillamook County maintains the roads in Cape Meares.

In 1999 the Cape Meares Community Association (CMCA) was incorporated and bylaws were adopted. The CMCA received its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status shortly thereafter. The mission of the CMCA according to the bylaws is:

1. To actively support community projects of an educational, scientific, charitable or historic nature undertaken for the public benefit,
2. To promote ecologically sound stewardship of the community's natural resources,
3. To create a forum and a voice for the community with which to stay in communication with the local government, particularly in land management, emergency services, homeland security, and in communication with the greater Oregon community in order to share ideas, facilitate coordination, and encourage cooperation to better secure the health and safety of the general public, and
4. To provide a cohesive center within the community where traditions may be honored, and individuals may be brought together with neighbors to build and identify supportive community bonds.

The CMCA owns a former Bay Ocean School District schoolhouse and maintains it as a community center. The community also owns 110 acres of land donated in 2007 to the CMCA for open space by Stimson Lumber. The community has been active in supporting protection of the Bayocean Spit.

A major focus of the community is emergency preparedness to provide food, medical care, and housing during what could be an extended period of time cut off from assistance from the outside in the case of an earthquake and/or tsunami. Much of the community is in the tsunami inundation zone and the land is vulnerable to landslides. There is only one road (Bayocean Rd.) in and out of Cape Meares until the Loop Road that links Cape Meares to Oceanside is repaired.

The community recognizes that they will be unlikely to receive outside assistance for at least two weeks in the case of a major earthquake and/or tsunami and that the community will need to be self-reliant possibly for much longer, so building community ties and personal relationships will be key to surviving.

The community has taken emergency preparedness seriously as described by the assets described below.

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ASSETS**

- Cape Meares Earthquake and Tsunami Preparedness plan (updated 2014)
- Two storage sheds with food, water filters, first aid supplies and boxes for personal items (in process) for emergencies
- Participation in the Oregon Emergency Management program “Map Your Neighborhood” with 6 neighborhoods identified with captains
- Attendance at quarterly Tillamook County meetings about emergency preparedness
- Supporting new Loop Road so there is more than one access point
- Opportunities being discussed:
  - Creating medical triage center in case of emergency
  - Development of emergency protocols and processes including for pets
  - Development of materials and ways of communicating with short term residents in case of emergency
  - Building 2-3 more storage sheds
  - Satellite phones
  - Establishing a “Sister City” relationship with a community in eastern Oregon for mutual aid in case of emergency

### **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY ASSETS**

#### Relationship assets

- Active CMCA with seven board members
- Quarterly community meetings and a strong cooperative spirit
- Social events (monthly potlucks or events)
- A variety of informal ways of people getting to know each other including:
  - Oregon Coast Conservation team that monitors Mile 286 on Cape Meares beach four times a year
  - Twice a month crafting time at the community center
  - Poetry group at the community center
- Opportunities being discussed
  - Creating way to support in home care to assure community members can stay in their homes as long as possible

#### Physical assets

- Cape Meares Community Center (community raised \$60,000 from 2001-03 for complete renovation and adding a kitchen)

- New water storage tank and representation on the Oceanside Water District Board
- Lidar mapping capability
- Maintained paths throughout the community for alternate routes to higher ground
- Opportunities being discussed:
  - Community garden

#### Community Skills and Capabilities

- Strong volunteer capacity (Cape Meares residents gave xx hours of volunteer service in 2018)
- Community Emergency Response Team
- Four ham radio operators
- Three people trained as firefighters and on-site fire engine
- Skills useful in an emergency if Cape Meares is cut off, such as people who know how to hunt and forage, carpenters and builders, physical and mental health care workers (there are 9 nurses living in Cape Meares), organizers and communicators
- Residents have attended a Tsumani Awareness Conference and Wilderness Emergency Medical Training. A post-disaster foraging workshop and a CPR training are planned for 2019.

#### Communication Capabilities

- Cape Meares Nextdoor (on-line way of communicating needs, questions, social events and general information)
- Website ([www.capemeares.org](http://www.capemeares.org))
- Internet in the community center
- Information posted on bulletin board at community center

#### Financial assets and Grants Received

- Current funds include \$28,623 (as of January 2019)
- CMCA sends a fundraising letter every year (\$6019 raised in 2018)
- Annual silent auction to raise money for emergency fund (\$1783 raised in 2018)
- Tillamook PUD grant for \$5000 received xx primarily used for first shed
- FEMA grant for \$10,000 with Emergency Volunteer Corp of Nehalem Bay (administered by Fire Dept.) received xx used for second shed and supplies