

Community members have talked about buying all of the old Caspar Lumber Company for a decade and a half. When the price dropped last year from \$11.2 million to \$3.5 million for the remaining 135 acres, people got serious. Since then, Caspar Community has sponsored numerous community meetings on the subject, hired a business consultant, interviewed non-profit lawyers, commissioned an in-depth appraisal and explored various scenarios for acquiring the property.

On Sunday, February 24, at 4 pm all coastal residents are invited to a gathering aimed at continuing the conversation on purchasing this property. We will review the current status of the land for sale, including the creation of two new parcels from one of the ocean-view parcels as well as the completed private acquisition of the former Company Store.

We will also discuss beginning the creation process for a Caspar Community Land Trust and a Caspar Mutual Water Company, both of which have been central to almost every land-acquisition scenario. The community land trust would maintain the existing four residences as affordable housing, as well as managing land for community agriculture and other community benefits. The mutual water company would oversee Caspar's water resources for all those interested in utilizing them. We will gauge if there is community support for such local non-profit organizations, and enlist community members who want to begin the formation process.

Following the meeting, there will be a potluck for one and all.

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