

TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:16 am.

Roll Call:

Present: J. Coleman, A. Doherty, B. Eckstein, S. Gold, G. Hanning, M. Rothrock, J. Shefren. H. Young: Public Works Director.

Absent: E. Ferrari, T. Lee

Guests: Nick Cabell, Jeanette Hansen

Oral Communication:

Guest Jeanette Hansen thanked Howard Young for restoring the trails on Hayfield so that it can be safely ridden.

Approval of Minutes:

Barb Eckstein made a motion to approve the minutes as recorded, Joyce Shefren seconded and all were in favor. It was agreed that the person who takes the Trails Committee minutes should sign them.

Old Business:

Update on annual report / strategic plan presentation to the council on 5/24. Alex Doherty gave a Trails and Paths Committee review/update to the Town Council in May. Howard Young and Meredith Rothrock were also present at the meeting. Howard reported that the council requested the Trails Committee look into trails use by individual trails and report back.

New Business:

Community hike

The date of the hike should be within the first two weeks of November to be consistent with last year's hike. Barb will work with the town to schedule the best date from these three (in order of priority;) Nov 4th, Octo 28th or Nov 11th.

Once a date is confirmed we will determine the location as well as leadership.

It was suggested that we choose a location different from last year's spot. Locations need to be reviewed taking into account; parking, dog friendliness and family use.

Trail use compliance

Review of designated use and possible gate design(s) to facilitate compliant use (no bikes) on trails.

Discussion of the review of Trail Use:

Putting together a report which would determine how and why each trail was created and is currently designated would be helpful but would be a very large project. Howard mentioned that this is further complicated because some trails are in the Town right of way and are fully in our control, while some were given to us (i.e. Coal Mine) which have restrictions that have legal and community interest issues. Joyce S. and Joe Coleman said they would be willing to help look into the trails and origins.

Howard read a paragraph from the 5/24/17 Town Council meeting minutes as follows:

"Councilmember Aalfs said the current Trails Use Ordinance was passed in 2007. He said there are some legal constraints on which trails can be opened to bicycles. He said the Trails & Paths Committee will start the discussion and Council decides if there are changes that should be made to the ordinance."

It was decided that our next Trails Committee meeting should include an agenda item for a review and discussion of what actions the Committee will take on a list of trails and usages. Howard has a trail matrix that he will email to Terry Lee as well as the 2007 Trails Use Ordinance to be distributed to the Committee members.

Discussion of Gate design:

Howard handed out a picture of a gate currently used on Dick Anderson trail at the Ranch. The photo was an example of the kind of design that would be used for the gates we would put in to keep bikes off designated trails. The highest priority of this design is to maintain the rural feeling of the town and the trails. The gate that would be used for the bikes would be higher to make it more difficult to lift over a bike. Howard stressed that we have not yet come up with the perfect gate design but that we need to do something because of community complaints. Putting a gate at Toyon Trail is the good starting point

because of the large number of complaints the town has been getting. Gates would be put at the bottom and top of Toyon Trail near the tree where the temporary warning sign is. Guest Nick Cabell said that, as a courtesy, he will let the Ranch know of these gates at their next meeting.

Meredith made the motion that the committee recommend a gate design similar to the gate currently on Dick Anderson trail but modified to discourage bikes. This applies to placement on the Toyon Trail. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Trail conditions - *Progress report on seasonal maintenance and restoration of trails.*

Joe noted that the overhead branches on the trails entering town from Woodside on horseback are low.

Susan Gold– Accolades to Howard. Old Spanish looks wonderful. Guest Nick Cabell said that it looked like a backhoe was used to widen the trail and that it would be good to avoid pushing old debris into woods, it doesn't look good. Howard noted that or drainage and other reasons this becomes necessary. Howard also said that often, after we renovate a trail, it will look too wide but will grow in very quickly.

Barb notes that the Quilter trail close to the Escobar end needs work, too narrow to safely ride. It needs to be widened and cut. The Westridge owned end of the trail is good. Howard mentioned that we graded out that trail 7 years ago and that the town owns from Escobar ½ way up. This seems to be the area that needs work and Howard said he will look into it right away.

Susan noted that Minoca trail no longer even looks like a trail any more.

Howard reported that 26 hours of work was done on the trails. Crew have needed to keep clearing fallen trees and that he is expecting to use all of the budgeted \$40K for weed abatement and overgrowth as well as clearing fallen trees. Howard reported that that Eagle trail has been fixed, cut into hillside and graded, horses can now pass.

Howard requests that the committee continues to email him problems we encounter as soon as possible so he can deal with them quickly.

Howard reminded the committee that the Trails budget of \$65K for 2018 is in. An extra \$25k was added to work to tackle mowing and weeding. This leaves \$45K to do other work. Susan estimated correctly that repairing Minoca trail would be \$12k to \$15K as an example of how quickly this budget could be depleted. Howard stressed that the committee will have to figure out how we would advise using the budget. Barb suggested that the committee needs to make a running trails maintenance budget and capital improvement list. Joyce said this could be an ongoing budget agenda item during each meeting.

Shady Trail drainage ditch has filled in with sediment, needs excavation. Howard will have his guys walk Shady and review.

Susan reminded the committee to walk the trails and report.

Environmentally preferable practices - *Preliminary assessment of time, effort, cost, and effectiveness of implementation to date of environmentally preferable practices to maintain and restore trails.*

We are in the very early stages of this new process and it is too early, even preliminarily, to assess.

Howard asked Trails Committee members to continue to observe and take note of trails that need work.

Westridge between Alpine and Cervantes - *Assessment of transit conditions on road, shoulder, and /or trail.*

This area was recently mow by Westridge Association. Joe will walk the trail and talk to George Andreini about all of this.

Dog signs – *Are trail signs clear enough that dogs are supposed to be leashed on trails?*

Guest Jeanette Hansen stated that off leash dogs are a huge safety issue around horses. She noted that the current trail signs show dogs which are not leashed and that perhaps we should replace these signs with signs that have more obviously leashed animals. It was noted by the committee that it is the law in San Mateo Country that all dogs be on leash in public. Meredith said

that she couldn't see how the added expense of replacing all of the current trail signs with signs that include an image of a leashed dog would be an effective enough deterrent to justify the additional associated cost and work. The discussion continued to include a reminder that a top priority of the town is the rural character of the town, more signs makes less rural feel to town.

Site development plans

Gary Hanning updated the committee. No new site development plans. All up to date.

Accolades – Annual Horse Fair: Barb and Joe are thanked for their very hard work. Everything went extremely well. Community involvement was good. Jeanette Hansen noted that the carriage ride was a wonderful part of the event.

Other Business:

Howard let us know MROSD interested in getting involved to help us with the booths. They want to help us and to work on their trails. Need agenda item next time to set up how we are going to work together on a joint educational outreach to help with compliance of trail use rules. They are coming to the July 18th meeting to talk with us.

Howard said they may do more grading work on Alpine Trail.

Adjournment:

Joyce made a motion, Susan seconded and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9.40 am.

Minutes by Meredith Rothrock