

APPROVED MINUTES CC SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

Present: Bourne, Chiariello, DeStaebler, Eckstrom, Heiple, Murphy, Plunder, Walz

Also Present: John Richards, Council liaison; Howard Young, Public Works Director, Jeremy Dennis, Town Manager, town resident interested in joining committee Catherine Magill.

1. Call to Order 7:30
2. Oral Communications – none
3. Approval of Minutes – *unanimous approval*
4. Current Site Permits – 40 Firethorn briefly discussed.
5. Current Tree permits - none
6. Old Business

a. Oversight of Significant Town Owned Open Space properties

Springdown. Young and Dennis attended our meeting tonight to hear about our plans for Springdown and to make sure we followed proper procedures. Dennis encouraged us to look at all the open spaces as a whole, which we have been doing for years. The Town is supportive of our efforts and urges us to create an overall plan for Springdown. We plan to do this and take it to the Council for their input. More immediately we are encouraged to move forward with plans for a test plot of weed elimination and wildflower seeding. We hope to fast track this because the fall rains are approaching and late October/early November is the optimum timing. Work on the vernal pond is expected to be completed 10/31/17; we would like to start shortly after that. Subcommittee report is Appendix A. *Motion by Chiariello, seconded by Plunder: Conservation Committee endorses the expenditure of up to \$10,000 by the Open Space Fund to begin phase 1 of the Springdown restoration. Unanimously approved.* Dennis also encouraged the committee to develop a comprehensive set of plans for all open space properties.

i.

- ii. Frog Pond – no report
- iii. Ford Field - report last month, see August minutes.
- iv. Town Center – report by Murphy and Chiariello – see Appendix B. Dennis appreciates the explicit enumeration of outstanding attributes.
- v. ROW – dying ?oaks on Portola near Santa Maria. Young had McClennahan evaluate. They agree with several of our members that the heat of the asphalt led to leaf death. The trees should recover nicely. In the course of this inspection, an oak dying of SOD was discovered. It was removed taking proper precautions.

- b. Tip of Month– Plunder – Rodenticide evening
- c. Kudos of the Month – Murphy – Dittrichia removal
- d. BYH deStaebler – no new applications
- e. Wells – Bourne – report deferred
- f. Committee/Town cooperation
  - i. Public Works. Young reports
    1. Springdown work on pond restoration is underway. Woodrats have been relocated, brush selectively cleared and the pond drained. After drainage it refilled about 2 feet; after drained again, it again refilled itself to about 1 foot. It is not clear what the source of this water is – a spring or a connection to the upper pond, or something else. Reshaping of the dirt to create a more gentle bowl is underway. Friday 10/6 we are invited to come look at progress and make suggestions if we see anything additional needed improvements. It is anticipated the entire job – the final steps are surrounding weed control and hydroseeding and woodrat return- will be completed by 10/31

2. The re-sprouting eucalyptus at Portola/Westridge were stump ground out.
  3. More trees than usual have fallen in town in the last few months, so his department has been busy clearing these. Significant brush clearing in ROW as requested by Fire Department has also been done.
  4. He is preparing to spray for SOD prevention the significant trees on town center and in ROW. At Plunder's request he will add 5 trees along Shady Trail. Plunder will mark them.
- ii. Town Center master Plan Committee – no report
  - iii. Sustainability and Environmental Resources (previously Water Conservation) Committee – They are planning to again produce a PV Garden Tour focused on native and low water use gardens since this was such a success last year. deStaebler and Murphy will be this committee's representatives to the planning committee.
  - iv. Dennis and Young clarify for us the recent snake encounter on Town fields. A snake was found by soccer parents on Rossotti field. Concern was great that it might be a rattlesnake, although it was determined to be a gopher snake. A few days later another snake – also a gopher snake – was found by Town staff while maintaining the field. It was relocated to the hills. Increased maintenance of the field including mowing of the sideline areas and repeated probing of the area of the stands was done. The soccer league lawyer contacted the Town and Dennis has solicited advice from several sources – including County Vector control and Jasper Ridge. All say that although rattlesnakes are found in town they are much more likely to be in drier areas. The gopher snakes are an important part of local fauna and help control the gophers. *Conservation encourages increased education about gopher snake identification to decrease undue anxiety and increase understanding of the value of gopher snakes.*
  - v. Dennis reports Town has hired a new staff member to oversee and coordinate Communications – Ali Taghavi
  - g. Weed seedling info sheet photos labeled – Plunder will find new more easily identifiable photos. Time goal is February when information most valuable to residents.
  - h. Fall Town evening on Rodenticides – Chiariello reports on the details of plans for the evening. Dennis says Town staff will do the set-up, tear down and simple refreshments and will cost share the live raptors. *Motion by deStaebler, seconded by Heiple: Committee approves expenditure of \$300 toward cost of live raptors at Rodenticide evening presentation. Unanimously approved.*
  - i. Winter event: Mountain lions Chiariello date not yet set.
  - j. Our Plant lists Plunder/Walz: nothing new to report
7. New Business - none
  8. Adjournment at 9:30
  9. Next Meeting 10/24/2017, 7:30 pm, Old Schoolhouse

#### **Appendix A – Springdown subcommittee report**

Members of the Springdown subcommittee:

Jane Bourne

Nona Chiariello

Alex Von Feldt Grassroots Ecology

Paul Heiple

Gary Nielsen Open Space Committee  
Marianne Plunder (Chair)

The subcommittee has met several times in August/September to discuss the Conservation Committee's partial Springdown restoration and weed management project. After a site visit and helpful input from Alex von Feldt and Howard Young the subcommittee decided to restore a 50 feet deep strip from the pond area up to Portola Road along the inside of the path;  
the area is approx. 1 acre in size.

Action needed:

**Conservation committee to approve the proposed expenditure of \$ 10,000.00 on 9/26/17**

- Buy Native CA Wildflower mix approx. \$ 400.00
- Hire Go-Native \$ 9,600.00
- manually dethatch the restoration area (October)
- seed CA wildflower mix (October)
- cut the weed clusters on the Springdown site that have not been cut in 2017
- Daily rate of \$ 1,600.00 ; approx. 6 days of work = \$9,600.00

The \$10,000 will come from the Open Space Fund, as proposed by Gary Nielsen.

The above described work will cover phase 1 of the partial restoration project. Phase 2 is to develop a comprehensive weed management plan for the whole Springdown site, as planting without weed control is futile.

Submitted by Marianne Plunder

**Appendix B – Town Center subcommittee report**

Property Name/number: Town Center Date 9/20/17  
Chiariello and Murphy

Goals and oversight responsibilities are different from other Town owned open spaces because Town Center is more developed, more heavily used and is the public living room for the town.

**Action Items: needs attention soon from the town:**

1. **Removal of the following plants –**
  - a. **Small oak trees bed #15 and end of bridge bed #22.**
  - b. **Italian Buckthorn(?) at base of large oak #13**
  - c. **Willow bed #12**
  - d. **Fig bed #8 – needs digging out, has been cut back before**

Outstanding attributes:

1. The creek and its plantings
2. Excellent original planting plan emphasizing low water natives.
3. The view across the orchard to the western hills.

Native plants seen: See brochure

Any rare plants seen? No

Anything that needs protecting? Heavy use requires thoughtful placement of plants.

Heritage trees noted: Many through site

Invasives: Under good control by Go Native

Any current issues with this site or risks to the site:

1. The landscaping is aging and looks thin and tired in many areas. Beds should be rejuvenated by supplemental planting in the fall.
  - a. Plant choice should be guided by what has thrived here or nearby.
  - b. Priority areas for rejuvenation are #7, #11, #17 and flagpole area of #10
  - c. The following would be appropriate additions to the plant list:
    - i. Monardella
    - ii. Zauschneria/Epilobium
    - iii. Wyethia – Mules ears
    - iv. Salvia spathyphyllum – Hummingbird sage
    - v. Cygnoglossum grande – Pacific Hound's tongue
    - vi. Hounds Tongue
2. Informal Paths of Use have destroyed some vegetation. These footpaths should be respected and cleared.
  - a. No planting should be done in these paths.
  - b. Where the whole area is repeatedly trampled (triangle between playground and creek bed#21), no planting should be attempted, weeds should be cleared and the area mulched yearly.

**Appendix to Minutes – ongoing**

**Appendix AA**

**Back Burner items:**

1. Monarch milkweed project -Heiple
2. Town Water Conservation Demo Project - Murphy
3. Table at Earth Fair, Town Picnic, fall event
4. Broom Pull choose date Sept, let Scouts know
  - a. In 2018 Sunday, 3/4/18
5. Wildlife corridors
6. Leaf blowers
7. expand Town discouraged plant list and include a link to CAL-Invasive Plant Council list [cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/](http://cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/) Cotoneaster Vines? Riparian?
8. Encouraging landscape architects to consider Town guidelines from the beginning of their design process.
9. Relationships with HOAs. Connect with HOAs and offer to be a resource for them for planting and stewardship
- 10.

**Appendix BB**

**Who keeps what for CC Event tables:**

1. Plunder – buckets and vases, BYH award itself with display stand
2. Murphy – Banner and tape, handout materials
3. deStaebler – BYH board and materials; Rodenticide board and handouts

**Appendix CC**

**Significant Town Owned Open Space Assignments**

- i. Springdown – Bourne and Plunder (and open space member Gary Neilsen) Also, during phase of Future Planning for Springdown –Heiple, Von Feldt

- ii. Frog Pond - Eckstrom and Heiple (include someone from PVR and open space)
- iii. Ford Field - deStaebler and Walz (and open space member?)
- iv. Town Center – Chiariello and Murphy

**Appendix DD**

Committee Liason with other Town committees

- i. ASCC Bourne and Murphy
- ii. Town Center Master Plan – Murphy, alternate ?
  - ii. Trails -
  - iii. Open Space – Chiariello
  - iv. Sustainability and Environmental Resources - Murphy