

MINUTES Conservation Committee OCTOBER 24 2017

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

Absent: Walz

Also Present: John Richards, Council liaison; Ali Taghavi, new Town Communication and Sustainability Management Analyst

1. Call to Order 7:32
2. Oral Communications –
 - a. Welcome new member Catherine Magill
 - b. Welcome visitor Ali Taghavi, new Town Communication and Sustainability Management Analyst.
 - c. Bourne reported on recent SOD blitz presentation.
 - d. Murphy reports she notified local scouts of Broom Pull dates and they replied it is on their calendar and they plan to help again this year.
 - e. Town is planning an evening soon on fire safety.
3. Approval of Minutes *Unanimously approved as written.*
4. Current Site Permits – 50 Firethorn completed recently
5. Current Tree permits
6. Old Business
 - a. Oversight of Significant Town Owned Open Space properties
 - i. Overview: Town Manager requests we create a Master Plan for all the parcels. Subcommittee of deStaebler, Magill and Murphy formed.
 - ii. Springdown – Discussion of the work done on the vernal pool restoration so far. Unfortunate that large machinery access was diagonal across areas of site with valuable plantings and that the workers drove their vehicles repeatedly across here compacting the land instead of parking along the roadside. The compacted areas will be scratched and wildflower seed scattered there. Young requests our opinion about spreading excess dirt across the site sparing the expense of off-haul. *Committee agrees that excess soil can be retained on site IF CAREFUL ATTENTION IS PAID TO WHERE IT IS SPREAD. It should not go over areas that have good stands of native plants.* Chiariello, Heiple and Murphy will meet with Young early tomorrow am to help guide placement of this dirt. *Committee requests that Young arrange mowing of thistle heavy areas of Springdown parcel asap to maximize the improvements currently being finished at the Pond.* Work continues on creation of a maintenance plan for Springdown parcel.
 - iii. Frog Pond – subcommittee including representatives from PVR met, draft report now being edited by members. Should be available at our next meeting.
 - iv. Ford Field – last report August '17 *Committee requests that Young remove thick stand of Dittrichia asap – some has already begun seeding; it needs to be bagged and removed.*
 - v. Town Center – last report September '17. Public works staff has completed most of our priority tasks. Original report was for central site; subcommittee will draft addendum to include the rest of the site between buildings and Springdown. Magill was added to this subcommittee.
 - b. Tip of Month – now is the time to plant! /What's blooming now – Toyon berries ripening? Plunder

- c. Kudos of the Month to those who removed their Dittrichia – Murphy
- d. BYH deStaebler – 2 awardees in 2017; they will be honored at the December Town Council meeting.
- e. Committee/Town cooperation
 - i. Public Works –see 6.a.ii
 - ii. Town Center master Plan Committee – no recent meeting
 - iii. Sustainability and Environmental Resources (previously Water Conservation) Committee – no recent meeting
 - iv. Trails – Bourne will be liaison.
- f. Weed seedling info sheet photos labeled – Plunder will be ready for approval February meeting
- g. Fall Town evening on Rodenticides – Chiariello debrief. Excellent evening, well attended.
- h. Winter event: Mountain lions Chiariello

7. New Business

8. Adjournment 9:50

9. Next Meeting 11/28/2017, 7:30 pm, Old Schoolhouse

Submitted by Judith Murphy