

Minutes
Conservation Committee
January 23, 2018

Present: Bourne, Chiariello, DeStaebler, Eckstrom, Heiple, Magill, Murphy (via FaceTime – non voting), Walz

Also Present: John Richards, Council liaison; Kiki Tidwell, Town resident, Simon Morgan, Town resident and Jasper Ridge staff? Or research fellow?. Stanford students ID??

Absent: Plunder

1. Call to Order 6:32
2. Oral Communications
 - a. Kiki Tidwell, Town resident brings concerns that ASCC overstepped its authority in requiring owners of 30 Holden place to remove redwoods as part of building permit process. Neighbors did not attend ASCC meeting or site visit because they had no objection to plans, not realizing that tree removal would be requested. She requests that we intervene. This committee is only advisory to ASCC and their process has been completed. As law requires, we will put on agenda for next meeting. This is an unprecedented situation – we have decision making authority for tree removal permits, but have never before been asked to prevent removal of trees. If faster action is needed, she might appeal to Planning or the Town Council.
 - b. Chiariello has spoken with County official who organizes Hazardous Waste Days and is supportive of a Rodenticide turn in that day. Next PV Hazardous Waste Day is in October.
3. November 2017 Minutes *approved unanimously.*
4. Current Site Visits
 - a. 207 Westridge
 - b. 5588 Alpine. Difficult to build on lot; 5 acres of very steep hillsides with thick oak/madrone forest. The only buildable spot is along the ridge. Only because there is no other possible site on this lot do we reluctantly approve the removal of these beautiful old Madrones.
5. Tree Permits
6. Old Business
 - a. Simon Morgan .Jasper Ridge staff introduces 2 Stanford students from d-School working on short term project with Jasper Ridge. They are interested in exploring the wide variety of attitudes in tTown about living in nature with wildlife. For diversity of opinions we suggested looking at archives of Forum and Almanac, Parks and Rec committee and local schools.
 - b. Oversight of Significant Town Owned Open Space properties
 - i. Comprehensive Plan subcommittee of deStaebler, Magill and Murphy met in December and fine tuned the categorization of all town owned properties. This will be discussed at our next meeting. After revisions made then, it will be sent to Town Manager for comments. Then either back to us, or to Town staff or Council.
 - ii. Springdown
 1. Subcommittee of Chiariello, Plunder, Heiple, and Bourne will produce a report following boilerplate and looking at all aspects of this site. Immediate concerns about new pond have held this up.
 2. Introduce the new pond to community with guided tours on Earth Day.
 - iii. Frog Pond – Eckstrom’s revised report sent to Public Works. Last report

January '18

- iv. Ford Field – last report August '17
- v. Town Center – last report September '17. Covered only the denser, landscaped west side of campus. Subcommittee of Chiariello Murphy and Magill will now look at the east side.
 - 1. Oak Grove report. Ammended report at next meeting.
- vi. Rossotti's Field and ROW – subcommittee of deStaebler, Magill and Murphy formed. Should involve Open Space and Parks and Rec as draft report.
- c. Tip of Month – Magill – weeds to pull now. Problems with formatting pictures so they will appear on Forum. We should do this exact Tip every early spring.
- d. What's blooming now – Plunder – Silktassel and Dirca.
- e. Kudos of the Month – Murphy – none this month.
- f. BYH deStaebler – no current applicants. deStaebler will reach out to those who have used application for education/information in the past. Outreach at Earth Day and WaterWise Garden Tour.
- g. Committee/Town cooperation
 - i. Public Works
 - 1. Owl boxes: Young has put up 2 owl boxes: one at Springdown and one in front of Schoolhouse while lift was available. Discussion about the pros and cons of installing them while rodenticides are still in use at Town Center. Pro: they are already up, owls use them for perching as well as nesting, it takes them a while to get familiar enough with box to nest, the area will never be clear of rodenticides because of use by neighbors. Con: We should adhere to best practice which says do not install until area 3 months clear of rodenticides. A test is underway at Ford Field which ends this June (?); we should wait and put owl box there. *Approved Recommendation: Installed owl boxes should have doorways blocked until best course of action clearer. Wait for results at Ford Field, involve Parks and Rec. before stopping use at Town Center playing fields. Strongly urge immediately discontinuing the use of all rodenticides except on playing fields at Town Center.*
 - a. Murphy has a barn owl box to donate for use at Ford Field since that area will be clear of rodenticides the soonest.
 - 2. Go Native will begin weeding maintenance next week.
 - 3. Young requests very specific mowing instructions for our new approach of more early/frequent mowing to decrease weeds and increase wildflowers: which week, how many inches high. Springdown subcommittee will do.
 - 4. Murphy will speak with Young about his attending a meeting this summer. It would be very desirable if he could meet with us more often and more informally as he does with Trails.
 - ii. Town Center master Plan Committee – nothing to report
 - iii. Sustainability and Environmental Resources (previously Water Conservation) Committee
 - 1. Garden Tour Sunday 4/15/2018 Delle Maxwell chair of subcommittee.
 - a. Possible Owners/Volunteers preview Saturday 4/14
 - iv. Trails – Bourne attended recent meeting.
 - v. Open space meets next week– Chiariello
- h. Weed seedling info sheet photos labeled – Plunder/Magill will be ready for approval February meeting. Murphy will meet with deGarmeaux to implement.
- i. Spring event: Mountain lions? Postponed until fall Chiariello, Plunder, Magill

- j. Broom Pull Sunday March 4, 2018
 - i. Tasks reviewed
 - k. Earth Fair Saturday, April 28
 - i. Table with wildflowers and materials
 - ii. Guided Tours of Springdown and new pond
 - 1. AM Magill
 - 2. PM Heiple
7. Adjournment 8:55
8. Next Meeting 2/27/2018, Old Schoolhouse.