

Conservation Committee Approved Minutes January 22, 2019

Present: Bourne, Chiariello, DeStaebler, Heiple, Magill, Murphy, Walz

Absent: Eckstrom, Plunder

Also Present: John Richards, Council representative

1. Call to Order at 7:35
2. Oral Communications
 - a. Justin Tien-Smith, an Eagle Scout candidate, wrote Chiariello/deStaebler about best specifications for owl boxes. Murphy sent him local Audubon Society directions. He came tonight with questions. Paul Heiple will mentor him.
 - b. Oxalis – resident inquired of Town best way to get rid of a hillside of oxalis. Discussion agrees that small areas should be diligently and repeatedly weeded when ground is soft so small bulbets come up with root. Unfortunately, for larger areas the only effective method is herbicide, which will also kill other surrounding plants.
3. Approval of Minutes unanimously approved.
4. Current Site Visits – 305 Golden Oak. The plant list has very few natives, several invasives, some very inappropriate plant choices and a density of coverage that is extreme. It raises the issue of whether we need to expand our discouraged plant list.
5. Tree Permits - none
6. Old Business
 - a. Oversight of Significant Town Owned Open Space properties – updates.
 - i. Springdown Preserve
 1. Management Plan
 - a. Details of supervision. Public Works staff Justin is lead contact, with Young copied on all correspondence.
 - b. Murphy reports Town opened owl boxes since there has been no rodenticide used for 5 months.
 2. Monarch butterfly habitat Milkweed seeds were spread and plants planted along the pond drainage swale. They germinate late so early mowing can be done here. *As they begin to emerge in May Heiple will mark off the area to protect them.*
 3. Pond - Horses should keep to path. There has been obvious trampling by horses around the pond. No rules about horses were instituted when property was acquired. Murphy spoke to Town Manager and Mary Hufty about issue. *We will monitor – with photos if damage is seen. If a problem exists, Leaders at Spring Down will be requested to let riders know they should keep to paths. Hopefully, a sign will not be needed. Consider requesting that these paths be closed to horses as some Town trails are in wet weather.*
 4. Murphy talked with Town Manager about logistics of opening small additional leg of internal trail to join Portola Trail at SpringDown/White property line, He says simple and inexpensive to open the fence there and let trail of use become established. *Bourne and Murphy will go to Trails committee to discuss.*
 - ii. Frog Pond –
 1. AdHoc committee on Guiding Principles last report June '18
 2. Town Manager met with PVR about this property last week.
 3. Pine removal in SW corner. Bid was \$3,000 each for 8 trees. Fire Marshall says they are no imminent fire risk.
 4. Murphy has asked Danna Breen to be on subcommittee and she accepted.
 - iii. Ford Field –revised
 1. Open Space comments pending
 - iv. Town Center –

1. Details of implementing plan was drawn up by subcommittee to guide Public Works. Map of first improvements was circulated. Planting should be done soon; Pricing has been requested on plants we requested. Some are available not in the 3-4" size we requested but only in 1 gallon size. Young will ask Grassroots Ecology and Breen about availability in smaller size. Justin reports that the flags we put out were quickly all taken by kids.
 - v. Rossotti's Field and ROW revised
 1. Open space comments pending
 - vi. Triangle Park
 - b. Intermediate Properties analysis and recommendations. First reports due February/March –
 - c. Tip of Month – Magill – Oxalis
 - d. What's blooming now – Magill – Garrya, Manzanita, and Ribes malvaceum
 - e. Kudos of the Month – Plunder – none this month
 - f. BYH deStaebler – Nice article by David Boyce in Almanac about presentation at Town council meeting 12/12 by Chiariello to this year's 3 awardees: Maxwell, Walden, and deStaebler
 - g. Committee/Town cooperation
 - i. Public Works – Murphy reports
 1. No rodenticides being used on any Town property. Rodent control on fields by Smith's Gopher Trapping Service is going well.
 - ii. Sustainability and Environmental Resources Committee – no report
 - iii. Trails – *Bourne will ask to be on agenda next month to discuss opening additional small leg of trail on Spring Down.*
 - iv. Open space – Chiariello –
 1. They are discussing Least Important group of properties and making recommendations to the town about disposition.
 - h. Vegetation management in local Open Spaces.
 - i. Plunder not here to present progress on talk with MROSD.
 - ii. Evening presentation – Balancing Fire Prevention with Beautiful Landscapes. Emergency Preparedness is interested in co-sponsoring; Craig Taylor as representative. Town needs date soon. We discussed possible speakers – Cal Fire, UC Berkeley School of Landscape Design has faculty interested in Fire Safe landscapes, habitat expert.
 - iii. Magill will draft a list of more and less fire prone plants to guide residents.
 - iv. Richards informs us that Woodside has a Defensible Space program with Fire Protection District that helps residents with clearing fire hazards.
 - b. Goals for 2019 – reviewed and approved. See appendix A
7. New Business
 - a. Hedge vs fence – deferred for next month
 - b. Broom Pull. Sunday, March 3, 9 am Old Schoolhouse. Request volunteers bring own gloves and water bottles. *We should phase out our provision of plastic water bottled water. Tasks reviewed and assignments made.*
8. Adjournment at 9:25
9. Next Meeting **2/26/2019**, 7:30 pm Old Schoolhouse.

Submitted by Judith Murphy

Appendix A

GOALS FOR 2019

TASKS:

Mandated:

Advisory function

ASCC – landscape review site visits and ASCC meeting attendance

Tree Removals

Public Works consultations

Annual Report to Town Council

Budget

Committee Initiated:

Liaison to other committees:

Trails – Bourne

Sustainability – Murphy

Parks and Rec -

Broom Pull – all

Earth Day/Town Picnic Day - all

BYH – deStaebler

Tip of Month –Magill

What's Blooming now - Magill

Kudos of Month - Plunder

Native Plant Garden by Schoolhouse - Murphy

Monarch Butterfly support – Murphy/Heiple

Weed seedling Information Sheet – Heiple/Plunder

Guide to Town Center plantings brochure– Chiariello

Google Team Drive site for CC use - Magill

Open Space oversight – all

Most Important

SpringDown – Plunder, Chiariello, Bourne, Murphy, Open Space

Town Center – Murphy, Chiariello, Magill

Frog Pond – Heiple, Eckstrom, Murphy, PVR, Breen

Rossotti's Field – deStaebler,

Ford Field – deStaebler, Magill

Triangle Park – Murphy, Heiple, Eckstrom

Intermediate

Blue Oaks/Lost Trancos Pond - Murphy Walz

Dengler - Heiple Magill

Shady Trail parklet – Plunder Bourne with Open Space

Roadside strips – Chiariello Eckstrom

BACK BURNER

Web site upgrade – Plunder, Chiariello

Wells – Bourne,

Native Seed collection and Distribution – Plunder

Poison Bait advisory – Chiariello, deStaebler, Heiple

Native and low water use Garden tour – Murphy, deStaebler

Next Tour 2020