

Approved MINUTES MARCH 26, 2019

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

Also Present: John Richards, Council representative

Residents of Portola Valley Ranch AdHoc committee on Coal Mine Ridge Nature Preserve:
Dudley Carlson, Craig Sanders, Nick Cabell, Dan Quinn, Denise Gilbert and Katharina Stromeyer

1. Call to Order 7:30
2. Oral Communications
 - a. Bourne has resigned. Many thanks to her for years of valuable service. We will have a goodbye party for her at de Staebler's house most likely in May.
 - b. Heiple will be leading a hike on Hawthorns property on 4/7. Sign up required with Grassroots Ecology
 - c. PV garden Club will be making a field trip to see the spring bloom in the Woodside areas that have been restored by a frequent mowing program on Thursday April 11 at 10 am. CC members are invited to join us.
3. Minutes unanimously approved.
4. Current Site Visits
 - a. Follow up on getting our comments to Planning as soon as possible because sometimes landscape architect will make changes as we request before ASCC site visit. Planning office confirms that they request our input as soon as they have a plan set for us. We will try to move with more alacrity when we get requests.
 - b. General Guidelines revision subcommittee of Plunder, Heiple and Magill has not yet met.
5. Tree Permits
 - a. Murphy passed on to Town Manager our concerns that heritage trees are not being given careful consideration when staff approves ADUs. Any heritage tree should be looked at by CC before being removed no matter what the circumstance.
 - b. With Council placing more emphasis on climate change and fire prevention, committee could use specific guidance on whether and how they want us to ease our restrictions on taking out heritage trees for improving solar or improving defensible space. Luckily the trees we care most about protecting – native redwoods and oaks – are not highly flammable trees.
6. Old Business
 - a. Oversight of Significant Town Owned Open Space properties – It is Important that we get ahead of budget process this year. Each subcommittee is expected to meet before April meeting and produce a revised report with a list of prioritized, requested actions. These will be sent to Young for cost estimates. He needs to have these figures completed before he can make the budget he submits to Council. His deadline is May 1.
 - i. Springdown Preserve Chiariello, Plunder, Murphy
 1. Comprehensive care calendar
 - a. Photo documentation Plunder
 2. Management Plan
 - a. First mowing was done last week. About 1/3 (the pond restoration area and up along the trails) of the area was weed-whacked by Go Native with care to preserve the poppies and lupine. The remainder was machine mowed as the ground got dry enough. This will be repeated in April.
 - b. Murphy spoke with Peggie MacLeod of Woodside Landscaping committee. They have been working with EcoSeed and the mowing plan we are now beginning to follow, and have been very happy with the results. On Kite Hill (4 years) they have greatly suppressed the Yellow Star Thistle. On Village Hill (2 years) they are making good progress against the oat grass.

3. Monarch butterfly habitat – plants should emerge in late April
 4. Pond – 2 herons and many ducks are frequently seen. The ducks are nesting.
 5. Extension of Portola Road trail to corner nearest White property will be created when ground is dry enough to get small tractor in to clear a path.
 6. Revised report and specific requests for 2019-20 will be ready for next month's meeting.
- ii. Frog Pond Murphy, Heiple, Eckstrom, Breen
 1. Revised report and specific requests for 2019-20 will be ready for next month's meeting.
 2. No follow up available on what action Town has taken with regard to Zussman mutilation of tree.
 - iii. Ford Field –deStaebler, Magill, Walz
 1. Revised report and specific requests for 2019-20 will be ready for next month's meeting.
 - iv. Town Center – Chiariello, Magill, Murphy
 1. Details of implementing plan given to Public Works in January. It is now too late to plant; this will begin after rains begin next fall. They will proceed with tree work and improvement of paths of use.
 2. Protecting Heritage oak report approved and will be sent to Young for cost estimating.
 3. Magill will ask to be on ASCC agenda for OK for screening tennis courts with native shrubs.
 - v. Rossotti's Field and ROW deStaebler, Magill, Walz
 1. Revised report and specific requests for 2019-20 will be ready for next month's meeting.
 - vi. Triangle Park. Murphy, Eckstrom Heiple
 1. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee has recommended installing a Bicycle Station (air and tools) in the park near the water fountain. We think this is a good idea and request only that it be a muted brown or green color that will blend better with the surroundings.
 2. Report approved and will be sent to Young for cost estimating.
- b. Intermediate Properties analysis and recommendations.
 - i. #26 Blue Oaks/Los Trancos Neighborhood pond. Murphy, Walz
 - ii. #32 Dengler. Heiple, Magill
 - iii. #33 Shady Trail park. Bourn, Chiariello, Plunder. Report will be edited to make specific requests for action by Public Works and will not include requests about the trail.
 - iv. Roadside strips Chiariello, Eckstrom. These are steep and prone to erosion and no specific action is recommended.
 - c. Tip of Month – Magill – Weed Whack early
 - d. What's blooming now – Magill – ferns, Ceanothus
 - e. Kudos of the Month – Plunder. Nothing this month
 - f. BYH – deStaebler will put something in Forum calling attention to the program.
 - g. Vegetation management
 - i. MROSD - Plunder will ask again
 - ii. Chiariello and Magill and Sustainability and Emergency Prep with input from Enea are putting together a document that incorporates fire recommendations with lists of high and low risk plants.
 - iii. Plunder requests that we invite Enea to come to a committee meeting to talk with us.
 - h. Committee/Town cooperation
 - i. Public Works – Murphy
 1. PG&E starting work on trimming back trees in highest risk zones. CA PUC set new rules last fall: 12' clearance, not previous 3' – all around and up to sky.
 2. Fields restoration complete – open to play again. Organic fertilizer being used – aromatic!

3. Paseo del Arroyo Trail revision and landscaping. Our input requested on planting plant. *Subcommittee of Plunder, Walz and Murphy will review and make suggestions.*
 4. SpringDown work as noted in 6.a.i.
 - ii. Sustainability and Environmental Resources Committee – Murphy participating in subcommittee on “REACH” codes for WELO and Green Building.
 - iii. Trails – Bourne reports they were concerned about the signage for proposed Coal Mine Ridge Nature Preserve.
 - iv. Open space – Chiariello provided Town Manager with before photos of Zussman tree.
 - i. Broom Pull March 3 debriefed.
 - i. Great turnout: 23 adults, 8 Conservation committee members and multiple scouts/ school volunteers participated.
 - ii. Weed wrenches should be checked out and signed for; 1 disappeared this year.
 - iii. Look for broom patches now while they are blooming and easier to spot. Send info to Eckstrom now and he will accumulate to guide next year’s pulling.
7. New Business
- a. Coal Mine Ridge Nature Preserve. Residents of Portola Valley Ranch AdHoc Committee on Coal Mine Ridge Nature Preserve presented to us their proposal for formally creating a preserve on 250 acres of PVR owned land. They have created excellent maps and signage and are working on a brochure. They hope to:
 - i. Welcome and invite hikers to learn and appreciate this area.
 - ii. Improve compliance with no bikes or dogs rules.
 - iii. Increase efforts to remove invasives and encourage natives.
 Signage is being discussed with Trails Committee.
 They would like our help with plants and native Features. Heiple will look for and share a plant list of this area that was created when the PVRanch was being approved.
 - b. Budget. Last year’s budget reviewed and one proposed for 2019-20. We will approve next month and submit before Town deadline of May 1.
 - c. Hedges vs fences – direct consideration of this be included in Guidelines revision.
 - d. Additions to Discouraged Plant list. This is being done by subcommittee revising our Guidelines and the Vegetation management group.
 - e. Annual Report Murphy will present draft at next meeting and present to Council on April 24.
8. Adjournment 9:33
 9. Next Meeting **4/23/2019**, 7:30 pm Old Schoolhouse.

Submitted by Judith Murphy