

TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE MINUTES – Tuesday, July 16, 2019, 8.15 am

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8.20 am.

Oral/Community Communications: Yvonne Tryce, a Portola Valley resident, has been working with MROSD regarding putting a small nature preserve on the Hawthorn property. She understands that MROSD cannot proceed with any projects including putting trails on the property, until they hear from the town of Portola Valley. H. Young reported that MROSD has not provided the town with plans to comment on for the Hawthorn property. H. Young will follow up with MROSD and Yvonne Tryce.

Mary Hufty brought up the Alpine Canyon Trail, which goes from Cervantes to Alpine. She has compiled information on the trail and its history. It has been maintained by volunteers for 20 years. She expressed an interest in preserving and maintaining the trail in view of the potential development at the bottom of the trail by Stanford, which may impact the trail. To her knowledge, the majority of the trail is on Westridge properties with only a small portion on Stanford land at the bottom. Mary is concerned that the trail be formalized before Stanford builds out the property. H. Young will work with the Planning Dept. to determine the origins of this trail. This can be agendized in the future when more information is obtained as to property ownership, easements and the town's role – if any – in maintaining the trail. J. Coleman will direct an email to Laura Russell, the Planning Director, confirming the Committee's interest in – and possible steps to safeguard – this trail.

Randy True, a new resident in town, offered assistance with trails. He also remarked that he attended the recent Housing Forum run by the town council and expressed concerns about protecting open spaces and trails, relative to potential development, including the 'road remnant' abutting the Frog Pond. He noted this area has been used by residents and wildlife for decades and should be preserved as part of the Frog Pond Preserve.

Dr. Judith Murphy from the Conservation Committee also expressed an interest in providing input on development plans early in the process, which might impact trails. She wishes to have input before the plans are completed and not after. She was concerned about the current process. Craig Hughes and H. Young suggested communicating with Laura Russell, the Planning Director, about community and Committee interest in providing feedback on development plans that might impact trails.

Danna Breen, a Portola Valley resident, reported 2 active trails on the 'road wedge' adjacent to the Frog Pond Preserve. They are well-used by neighborhood people and school kids. She would like support from the Committee for protecting these trails, and also requested that the Committee be involved in the coming General Plan update, which she feels considers this area as open space and not to be developed. The Open Space Acquisition Committee will discuss this land at their meeting on July 29, at 7.30 pm.

Roll Call: J. Coleman, B. Eckstein, E. Ferrari, S. Gold, G. Hanning, T. Lee, M. Rothrock, J. Shefren. C. Hughes, Council Liaison; H. Young, Public Works Director; C. Sanders and Dudley Carson, PV Ranch liaison; Yvonne Tryce, Mary Hufty, Danna Breen, Randy True and Dr. Judith Murphy from Conservation.

Approval of Minutes for regular meeting of May 21, 2019: J. Shefren made a motion to approve, J. Coleman seconded, all were in favor.

Old Business:

- a. **Monthly (May & June) Trail Conditions, Work, and Budget:** Los Trancos, Portola Road, Windy Hill and Wildfire Mitigation, etc. (Discussion/Update): S. Gold says the trails are looking good. G. Hanning asked whether a permit is pulled for fire mitigation because it could affect the town trails when people do this. H. Young says no permit is needed. A suggestion was made to have the Fire Dept. advise people to check with the town before doing fire mitigation, to ensure trails are not harmed. G. Hanning suggested a process be started to protect the trails and our Committee can help. G. Hanning asked for an update on the Meadowood homeowner's repairing the trail and doing some water mitigation. H. Young says he is working with the homeowner to correct the problems. G. Hanning offered his help as needed.
- b. **Coal Mine Ridge Trails Map:** (Discussion): C. Sanders said they would be leaving the nomenclature "Nature Preserve" off the table for now. Will be talking about maps today. Note: the town symbol is included on the map and also Blue Oaks' trails. C. Sanders pointed out that they designated – with a line of red dots – the area where dogs are not allowed on ranch trails. G. Hanning asked that it be noted the trails are closed to equestrians seasonally. Randy True suggested putting an app. on the map for cell phones but noted the coverage is not good. C. Sanders says the Abenza app. Is very good. S. Gold says paper maps will be provided. C. Sanders says the maps can be updated regularly. The current map is 50% smaller but will still not fit into the current holder. Committee members expressed support for the updated map which successfully reflects feedback offered over numerous meetings.

New Business:

- a. **Horse Fair 2020:** May 9, from 11 am to 2.00 pm (Discussion): E. Ferrari asked that the Committee vote to approve the application which, when approved, she will submit to the town to secure the date. J. Shefren made a motion to approve, G. Hanning seconded, all were in favor.
- b. **Potential Capital Projects:** (Discussion): H. Young said to look at trails for more significant capital improvements (not maintenance), and gather a list. Committee should be formed to discuss the items and then bring back to the Committee. J. Coleman will volunteer to form a Committee, S. Gold will assist. Maintenance issues can still be called in to PV Connect.
- c. **Site Development Plans:** (Discussion, as filed and applicable): G. Hanning has concerns about a trail easement for a property at Westridge and the entrance to Shady trail. He said Bev Lipman called a meeting on fire mitigation on private and town-owned trails. May need to get permission to use Shady trail to access properties which back onto it. H. Young says this needs to be done seasonally.

d. **Other Business:** E Ferrari asked that staff remove the chain and sign on the Sequoia trail at Willowbrook as this is an all-weather trail and is not closed during winter.

Adjournment: J. Coleman made a motion to adjourn, E. Ferrari seconded, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 10 am.