

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES September 25, 2018

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

Also present: John Richards, Council representative

Absent: Chiariello

1. Call to Order at 7:30
2. Oral Communications – none
3. Approval of Minutes as corrected.
4. Current Site Visits
  - a. 99 Hillbrook site visit was yesterday. ASCC was amenable to our suggested changes.
5. Tree Permits – no current
6. **Old Business**
  - a. Oversight of Significant Town Owned Open Space properties – Draft Estimates prepared by Young were reviewed and *some suggestions made*. This will go to Open Space committee at their meeting next week, and after they decide which of the expenditures are appropriate for Open Space to fund, the balance will go to the Council. Probably the meeting of October 17.
    - i. Springdown Preserve
      1. Comprehensive care calendar -
      2. Monarch butterfly habitat – Magill and Heiple will gather seeds from the Milkweed on Town Center property currently setting seed. We will plant these seeds along with plants grown up for us by Grassroots Ecology, after the rains start.
      3. Pond – It will be interesting to watch the newly restored Blue Heron Pond through its first full yearly cycle.
    - ii. Frog Pond – last report April '18
      1. AdHoc committee on Guiding Principles
    - iii. Ford Field –revised
      1. Removal of invasives from Creekbed requires a permit from Fish and Game. *We request that permit be applied for – perhaps in conjunction with Grassroots Ecology since they are permitted for work on nearby part of creek.*
      2. Open Space comments pending
    - iv. Town Center – last report April '18
    - v. Rossotti's Field and ROW revised
      1. Grassroots Ecology has a permit for removal of invasives along this area of creek, but their budget has limited them primarily to broom removal. *We request that the contactor for this line item be Grassroots Ecology and the funds go to them to increase the scope of what they can remove.*
      2. Open space comments pending
    - vi. Triangle Park Murphy circulated first draft of History
  - b. Intermediate Properties analysis and recommendations. Assignment sheet circulated – Murphy will assign from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices.
  - c. Tip of Month – Magill. Fire safety, especially gutters
    - i. Discussion of previous months Tip on Dittrichia led to mention of how bad the Dittrichia infestation on the Priory hillside has become. deStaebler will mention it to Hovey Clark, and Murphy will contact Tom Klope and Bob Waterman who both advise the Priory on landscaping.
  - d. What's blooming now – Magill replacing Plunder
  - e. Kudos of the Month – Murphy – thanks to those who removed their Dittrichia
  - f. BYH deStaebler – no new applicants
  - g. Committee/Town cooperation
    - i. Public Works – Murphy:
      - a. Young alerted us to the Tier 3 PG&E tree cutting that is beginning. PG&E, mandated by the State PUC, has begun contacting residents in Tier 3 areas (Wayside and

the Highlands and some of Hayfields) about more aggressive pruning of trees under power lines both in Town ROW and private property. The new PUC guidelines call for 12 foot clearance, when the current legal limit is 4 feet. Residents may be given the option of removal of the whole tree if the pruning is so drastic it endangers the tree. Town staff has been involved in trying to understand the fast moving situation and it appears no permits are needed. No action needed from CC.

- b. *Committee commends Young on his cooperation and helpfulness.*
- c. *We request that this year instead of purchasing the usual wildflower mix, only CA poppies and a smaller amount of separate locally native Lupine seeds be purchased. These should be planted in separate areas.* The usual mix has produced very poor results. There is some evidence that the seeds compete with one another, which is why native wildflower meadows are usually mosaics rather than mixtures.
- ii. Sustainability and Environmental Resources Committee – nothing new
- iii. Trails – Bourne reports Community Hike to be held on November 3. Eagle Trail need for repairs was discussed – all will need to be done by hand. Murphy will check with Lance Vaughn a local resident who oversees many Eagle Scout applications to see if the Scouts might be interested in helping with this.
- iv. Open space – meeting next week will finalize the application to the Council for funds to carry out our recommended improvements for Most Important Town owned properties.
- h. Rodenticide
  - i. Turn in Day October 10/13
    - 1. No Table is appropriate because everyone in a car.
    - 2. Collect nasty stuff – SM County staff
    - 3. PR – subcommittee will publicize on Forum and elsewhere.
  - i. Town Picnic/Celebration of 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Town Center - review: Table on Rodenticides was well visited. It might have been better if our table could have been by the very busy Owl Box table.

## 7. **New Business**

- a. Beautifying significant Town medians. The committee is interested in expanding out our management plans for the right of way areas that are on the Town owned properties list to include some of the major medians in town. Potentially lessons learned could then be applied to more areas of right of way along the scenic corridors.
8. Adjournment at 9:00pm
9. Next Meeting **10/23/2018**, 7:30 pm Old Schoolhouse.