

TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE MINUTES – Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 8.15 am.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8.15 am.

ORAL/COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: Resident Danna Breen asked if the agenda item under Other Business, Alpine Trail, could be advanced, which the Chair approved, after Old Business had been discussed.

ROLL CALL: J. Coleman, A. Doherty, B. Eckstein, E. Ferrari, G. Hanning, F. Leach, T. Lee. C. Hughes, Town Council Liaison; H. Young, Director of Public Works; J. Murphy, Conservation Committee; K. Stromeyer, PV Ranch liaison; C. Sander, PV Ranch; Helen Quinn, Randy True, Gary Morgenthaler, Alison White, Betsy Morgenthaler, Danna Breen and Andrea Marra.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular meeting of September 17, 2019. B. Eckstein made a motion to approve the Minutes with corrections, J. Coleman seconded, all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Monthly (September) Trail Conditions, Work, and Budget:** (Update/Discussion): H. Young cleared tree on Shady. Asked Committee to check growth on trails as the town is not spraying. H. Young also said the homeowner on Meadowood is correcting the work on the trail. G. Hanning asked if they are addressing the water which is draining onto the town trail. H. Young will follow-up.
- b. **Coal Mine Ridge Open Space Maps and Signage:** at Willowbrook/Alpine kiosk (Update/Discussion): C. Sander said that maps and signage is already at the 2 kiosks. E. Ferrari has seen them and complimented C. Sander. Question asked as to whether maps are going to be at the main kiosk. G. Hanning also asked about space on the main town kiosk. C. Sander said they are not replacing the kiosk and will refill maps for the foreseeable future. F. Leach suggested warnings on signs re. rattlesnakes, mountain lions and yellowjackets. G. Hanning suggested less is more and not to have signage to encourage excessive usage as parking is limited at that location. E. Ferrari reported bicycle tracks on Los Trancos and the Ranch trails.
- c. **Potential Capital Projects:** (Update/Discussion): J. Coleman listed 10 items. T. Lee asked that they be referred to a future meeting for committee comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Stanford Subdivision Subcommittee:** (Update/Discussion): G. Hanning said 2 members, F. Leach and J. Coleman, have been added to the sub-committee. G. Hanning reported meeting with John Donahue, Stanford representative. Minutes available on line. Trails Element map on the General Plan proposed 3 trails. G. Hanning suggested the trails proposed are quite reasonable and thinks Stanford should implement these 3 trails, not the Canyon trail which had been suggested previously. Suggest all-weather, multi-use trail. Hiking/equestrian on upper and biking, where safe, on the multi-use. Unsure about dogs. G. Hanning suggested trail easements be established before approval of subdivision. He suggested moving subdivision south over 100' from the Canyon Trail/creek area. Trails should be in the scenic corridor. Not

addressing Canyon Trail, but suggest a new trail could drop into Canyon and lead to the Westridge trails. Suggests the town get an open space easement on balance of land, in perpetuity. Stanford only suggests an open space easement for the life of the subdivision, which means if they razed the subdivision after a period of time, they could develop the entire property. G. Hanning thought trails could mitigate the fire hazard. Betsy Morgenthaler read that the Stanford subdivision can never be sold under the original agreement. She thought we should check and see whether a Conservation Easement could even apply to this. The Town Planner would like to address our Committee and answer questions re. Stanford.

- b. **Development Plans:** (Discussion, as filed and applicable):
- c. **Accolades:** (Discussion, if any applicable): T. Lee thanked E. Ferrari for reporting trail maintenance issues on an on-going basis to the Public Works Dept; also thanked her for acting as Secretary and also leading the sub-committee on Alpine Road road remnant; also to G. Hanning for leading the Subcommittee on the Stanford subdivision and to the other members of these subcommittees.

Other business:

- a. **Council Subcommittee on Committee Support:** (Update/Discussion): T. Lee talked about the Council Subcommittee on Committee Support. He told the Council that our Committee is supported by full membership and we meet congenially on a regular basis. Our members are passionate about the trails in town and their particular uses. We host 2 events during the year: a hike open to the public and the Horse Fair, both of which have been well-received and attended, especially the latter.
- b. **Alpine Trail** (through road remnant adjacent to Frog Pond Open Space between Hawthorns to the east and CMRNP/MROSD Windy Hill to the west):
(Update/Discussion): Letters have been received from 6 persons asking that our committee support designating this area as Open Space. T. Lee says the Open Space Acquisition Committee (upon which he serves) supports designating the Corte Madera Park/Road Remnant as Open space, in addition to the Frog Pond Preserve.

Alison White spoke in support of preserving Corte Madera/Frog Pond as permanent Open Space. Randy true spoke about the housing initiative and did not think the topic has been agendized in a transparent way. He suggested the town should use the \$3,000,000 fund to subsidize renters who live or work in town, rather than building on the town's open spaces.

Helen Quinn served on the Trails Committee in the past and hopes we support the Alpine Road designation as protected open space. It is heavily used and leads to ranch trails, MROSD trails, Blue Oaks trails and is also a wildlife corridor. The Corte Madera park is an important accessory to the delicate environment of the Frog Pond and housing here would not be appropriate.

Danna Breen adds the 2 trails traversing this property are used by locals and residents.

Gary Morgenthaler asked what is 'nomenclature'? Does it mean open space in perpetuity, no development ?

Helen Quinn said the Corte Madera Road Remnant should be formally declared Open Space.

Gary Morgenthaler: the 6.3 acres from Hawthorn to Willowbrook, including the Frog Pond area, has been open space for 55 years. The Open Space Acquisition Committee has deemed this area permanent open space and it should be taken out of development forever.

Craig Sander: Open Space designation does not mean trails everywhere.

Betsy Morgenthaler: Lauded the Committee for grappling to preserve this area as open space.

Judith Murphy: She did not want to involve housing in this discussion, and is not in opposition to the Ad Hoc Committee and its goals.

E. Ferrari advocated protection of these trails and quoted from the Trails and Paths element of the General Plan, where the protection of our open spaces be upheld and not willingly relinquished under the pressure of urbanization. It cited the town's dedication to furthering the concept of Portola Valley as an open space preserve in the Midpeninsula.

Randy True: The trails along the Alpine Road corridor from Robert's to Willowbrook are part of the natural environment and used extensively by schoolchildren.

Fred Leach: Agrees with the Trails and Paths element about preserving our trails, and the wording contained therein, as quoted by E. Ferrari.

G. Hanning said it would be appropriate to say a development here would change it.

A. Doherty: Commented that this area needs to be protected and kept as a haven of peace where birds, squirrels, and woodrat nests abound here, and deer are seen resting in the grass.

G. Hanning: Our trail system is a network of inter-connectiveness in this area, joining Portola Valley Ranch and Corte Madera school. This section is important for that reason.

C. Sander: A formal trail could be put in.

T. Lee: Does not know which are official or unofficial trails. We as a Committee could comment on formal or informal trails and how it could affect them if there were development. C. Sander suggested good maps be prepared. The Ad Hoc Meeting is on November 18. Council Meeting December 11th. C. Hughes suggested forming a sub-committee. H. Young says we need to get trails to meet this intent as certain areas fall under state setbacks. G. Hanning sees general support for preservation of trails from

Hawthorn to Willowbrook. Suggest our Committee support Open Space and Conservation Committees and that a Sub-Committee, consisting of E. Ferrari, F. Leach and B. Eckstein be formed. C. Sander will help with a map.

H. Young mentioned bicycle racks are being installed at Triangle Park.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10.20 am.