

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES NOVEMBER 26, 2019

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Present: DeStaebler, Heiple, Magill, Murphy, Plunder, Stromeyer, Walz

Absent: Chiariello, Eckstrom, Council representative

1. Call to Order at 7:35
2. Oral Communications –
 - a. SOD blitz results for 2019. Matteo was ill, but Debbie Mendelson and San Mateo Co arborist gave main points. New:
 - i. New Phytopthera strains in Oregon, resistant to our prevention methods.
 - ii. Use of gypsum around tree 1-2 weeks before spraying improves uptake. Can then spray every other year instead of every year.
 - iii. If injection, 1:30 mixture as effective and less damaging than labeled use of 1:1.
 - b. Murphy reports that Mill Valley passed an ordinance requiring the removal of all acacia, bamboo, thuja, juniper, Italian Cypress, gorse and 4 broom species. From all properties, not just new construction.
3. Minutes unanimously approved with abstentions for absence by Plunder and Walz
4. Current Site Visits
 - a. Subcommittee on Guidelines revision - include fire safety? Ask Council for direction.
 - b. Murphy reports 305 Golden Oak greatly revised plan in response to our recommendation and it is much improved. Much less coverage, more natives, removal of all pines and Eucalyptus, no perimeter fencing, no gate. ASCC approved last night and thanked us for our input.
 - c. Stanford has just submitted revised plans for Wedge. Subcommittee will meet to review; town wants report by 12/16. Murphy, Heiple, Plunder
 - d. 19 Redberry – Walz will lead – site visit next week. Town wants report by 12/13
 - e. 846 Portola road, lot 4. The last of the small lots behind the restoration at 846 frontage. Site visit done, report pending, due 12/4
5. Tree Permits -none
6. Old Business
 - a. Oversight of Significant Town Owned Open Space properties –
 - i. Springdown Preserve - Chiariello, Plunder, Murphy
 1. 5 year plan draft underway – see appendix A
 2. Management Plan – important for this month is removal of fallen willow into pond and nearby willow dropping large branches. Public works was to do this before rains began because easier with dry soil.
 3. Pond. Cattail removal methodology under consideration.
 4. New trail not urgent, budgeted for in this fiscal year.
 5. Restoration area taped off by Murphy and Plunder to prevent foot, dog, horse trampling. 1/3 seeded with CA poppies, 1/3 will be seeded after rains begin (in a few days) and 1/3 will be left unseeded but protected.
 6. Milkweed donation – Heiple working with donor.
 - ii. Frog Pond – Eckstrom, Heiple, Murphy
 1. Scout project sponsored 11/17. 4 dads with chain saws and 6 scouts using hand saws and dragging made a big improvement reducing fire load, opening views from the school to the Frog Pond, and removing non natives.
 2. 5 year plan draft underway see Appendix A.
 3. Adjacent parcel. Council will hear our recommendation on 12/11, along with similar recommendations from Open space, Trails committees, and Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety, the same night as report of Ad Hoc committee on Housing on Town Owned

Properties.

4. Harding Grass Warriors sponsored 11/16. Neighbors with chain saws and dragging stamina lessened fire load and liberated several oaks.
 - iii. Ford Field – deStaebler, Magill, Walz 5 year plan draft see Appendix A
 - iv. Town Center – Chiariello, Magill, Murphy
 1. 5 year plan draft underway see Appendix A
 2. **important** - planting should be done soon – screening tennis courts as approved and replacement of dead shrubs alongside – propose Mimulus cultivar Ruby Slippers
 - v. Rossotti's Field and ROW - deStaebler, Magill, Walz
 1. 5 year plan draft underway see Appendix A
 2. private area to south crowded with small bays and dumped cuttings. Murphy will contact HOA.
 - vi. Triangle Park – Eckstrom, Heiple, Murphy
 1. 5 year plan draft underway see Appendix A.
 2. current work: Large tasks out for bid.
 - b. Label trees Town Center and SpringDown – Plunder, Walz will do in November.
 - c. Tip of Month – Magill – Clean culverts and gutters
 - d. What's blooming now – Magill - Epilobium and Chaparral current.
 - e. Kudos of the Month – Plunder Scout Troupe 64
 - f. BYH deStaebler – no new applications
 - g. Vegetation management –Plunder.
 - i. There is a need for a fire safe plant list. Others exist and we will distill those for local use. Subcommittee of Plunder, Heiple, Walz and Magill.
 - ii. Ad Hoc Fire safety committee completed first report to council and has been put on hold for now. Woodside worked with Fire Marshall Enea to do detailed inventory of dangerous trees in Town right of ways; our Council declined to have her do similar here.
 - h. Committee/Town cooperation
 - i. Public Works –busy with field restoration.
 - ii. Sustainability and Environmental Resources Committee –
 1. Murphy reports encouragement to use renewable diesel - less greenhouse gas and purer than biodiesel. Local supply at Propell in RWC.
 2. CalWater's rate case is currently under consideration by CPUC – they asked for increases to be able to install smart meters.
 - iii. Trails – Stromeyer
 1. Stanford real estate Donahue and Town Planner Russell came to Trails to discuss Wedge plans. At this point Stanford seems unenthusiastic about shifting project south to make room for wildlife corridor.
 2. Trails recommended that the Informal social trail that crosses Frog Pond Open Space on the south from Alpine Trail to Indian Crossing be made an official Town trail. This committee had recommended considering such a trail when we were looking at our goals for Frog Pond Open Space. *We support the Trails Committee recommendation but because of the fragile ecosystem a strong request that dogs must be on leash and this is not an equestrian trail. We also think Open Space committee should be asked to weigh in.*
 - iv. Open space – No report.
7. Changes Criteria and web site.
- a. Agenda items a,b, and c are integrated into one – Proposed changes to CC significant and protected lists that will add a section to protect Significant shrubs such as Manzanitas, add Golden Oaks and Shrub Oaks, and delete Bays from

the protected list and the need for tree permits, – subcommittee of Heiple, Magill and Walz.

8. New Business
 - a. Broom Pull *Sunday March 8, 9am to noon*. Murphy will apply for permit.
 - b. Earth Day - Date will be sometime in April – not yet on Town calendar. *We plan to have 2 tables and request to be near other conservation minded groups.*
 - c. Fall lecture: Fire protection balanced with habitat preservation. Hopefully in September. Murphy will schedule with deGarmeaux. Co sponsor with Sustainability
 - d. Membership 2020 – all present plan to continue
 - e. Election of Officers unanimous – *Murphy will continue as Chair/Secretary and Magill as Vice Chair.*
9. Adjournment at 9:25pm
10. Next Meeting **1/28/20, 7:30pm**

Appendix A

DRAFT 5 YEAR PLAN SPRINGDOWN

1. ANNUAL
 - a. Basic maintenance –
 - i. Include ROW between official Open Space and Portola Road.
 - ii. Weed and invasive control, several well timed mowings every spring.
 - iii. Removal of dead/hazardous materials.
 - iv. Observation of tree canopy for urgently needed work.
2. EVERY OTHER YEAR
 - a. Clear pond of cattails and other invasives
3. 2020 – year 3 of 3 year existing budget appropriation
4. 2021 –clean up of east side. Install wildlife cam
5. 2022
6. 2023 Arborist tree work (needed every 3-5 years)
7. 2024

DRAFT 5 YEAR PLAN FROG POND

1. ANNUAL
 - a. Basic maintenance –
 - i. Mow 2/year: close timing needed for good weed control, CC will advised based on that year's weather
 1. For most weedy grasses – wide perimeter mow late April – mid May
 2. For Harding Grass – wide perimeter and deeply as possible into pond late May - June
 - ii. Control of shrubby invasives.
 - iii. Removal of dead/hazardous materials.
 - iv. Observation of tree canopy for needed work.
 - v.
2. EVERY OTHER YEAR
 - a. Coppice largest, oldest coyote brush. About 20% of cover. They will regrow so this puts all on 10 year cycle to be cut back so none again gets tall with dense, dry wood flammable at base.
3. 2020
 - a. remove large old pines near school
 - b. remove 25% Harding grass
4. 2021

- a. remove 6 large old pines at SW corner
 - b. remove 25% harding Grass
- 5. 2022
 - a. remove 25% Harding Grass
 - b. Arborist tree work (needed every 5 years)
- 6. 2023
 - a. remove last 25% Harding Grass
- 7. 2024
 - a. remove Harding grass as it appears

DRAFT 5 YEAR PLAN FORD FIELD

- 1. ANNUAL
 - a. Basic maintenance –
 - i. Two mowings/year. Close timing needed for good weed control, CC will advised based on that year’s weather

To control Harding Grass and other weedy grasses mow late May or June.
To control Dittrichia mow just as begin to flower in early September.

 - ii. Poison oak control along creek trail. Pull when deciduous and soil moist or cut back.
 - iii. Removal of dead/hazardous materials.
 - iv. Observation of tree canopy for urgently needed work.
- 2. EVERY OTHER YEAR
 - a. Observe stream side trees that may be leaning or likely to fall on trail and remove.
- 3. 2020 –
- 4. 2021 –
- 5. 2022
- 6. 2023 Arborist tree work (needed every 3-5 years)
- 7. 2024

DRAFT 5 YEAR PLAN TOWN CENTER

- 1. ANNUAL
 - a. Basic maintenance –
 - i. Weed and invasive control,
 - ii. Removal of dead/hazardous materials.
 - iii. Water as needed; irrigation system maintenance
 - iv. Observation of tree canopy for urgently needed work.
 - v.
- 2. EVERY OTHER YEAR
 - a. Creek maintenance with Grassroots Ecology
 - b.
- 3. 2020
 - a. Refurbish 2 more planting beds
- 4. 2021
 - a. Refurbish 2 more planting beds
- 5. 2022 Refurbish
 - a. 2 more planting beds
- 6. 2023
 - a. Refurbish 2 more planting beds
 - b. Arborist tree work (required every 3-5 years)
- 7. 2024
 - a. Refurbish 2 more planting beds

DRAFT 5 YEAR PLAN ROSSOTTIS FIELD OPEN SPACE

1. ANNUAL
 - a. Basic maintenance –
 - i. Weed and invasive control
 1. Poison oak control
 - ii. Removal of dead/hazardous materials.
 - iii. Observation of drainage swale for breakdown of boundaries – repair as needed.
 - iv. Observation of tree canopy for urgently needed work.
2. EVERY OTHER YEAR
 - a. Remove invasive plants along creek trail and area between field fence and creek trail path. Himalaya Berry and invasive iris most prominent.
3. 2020
4. 2021
5. 2022
6. 2023
7. 2024

DRAFT 5 YEAR PLAN TRIANGLE PARK

1. ANNUAL
 - a. Basic maintenance –
 - i. Weed and invasive control
 1. Pull out seedling oaks, buckeyes, broom
 - ii. Removal of dead/hazardous material.
 - iii. Irrigation system maintenance
 - iv. Observation of tree canopy for urgently needed work.
 - v. Lawn mowing
 - vi. Trimming of shrubs
2. EVERY OTHER YEAR
3. 2020 – Dead juniper out; remaining clean up.
4. 2021 – arborist tree work (needed every 5 years)
5. 2022
6. 2023
7. 2024