



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting

Wednesday 15th January, 2020

8:15 AM Historic Schoolhouse

765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call

Gary Hanes, Angela Hey, Ed Holland (Chair), Bob Pierce, Kevin Welch and Kenny Chung attended. Also in attendance were Howard Young (Town Public Works Director), Craig Hughes (Town Council Representative) and San Mateo County Sheriff's Office representative, Sergeant Andy Hui.

2. Approve Minutes

The minutes of Dec 4th 2019 were approved with a correction (Bob Pierce attended).

3. Oral Communications

4 members of the public attended.

Wilcox (Will) Paterson, resident of 126 Stonegate Road and former committee chair reported on what he termed "a serious traffic safety issue". The Neely Winery is proposing to hold events and wine tasting on their premises (555 Portola Road). At the entrance to the winery he sees two problems:

1. Vehicles exiting the winery drive to enter Portola Road cross a trail used by horses, as well as the shoulder used by bicycles. If turning towards Woodside they will also cross a lane for road traffic. There is limited line of site and concerns for drivers who have just tasted wine.
2. In addition to wine tasting, major events (10) in addition to wine tasting. The plan limits attendance to 100 persons for 4 events and 150 for 6 events. So there could be over 100 people at some events.

Gerald (Jerry) Kohs, resident of 115 Stonegate Road noted that many residents are opposed to the plans for wine tasting and events. On Feb 5th at 7 pm there will be a regular meeting of the Planning Commission where there will be a hearing for safety issues. In addition, Gerry asked the BPTS committee how they would like to be informed, as safety committee. Ed & Howard suggested that comments must be sent to the committee via the town website.

4. Sheriff's Report

4.1. Accidents and Citations

Sergeant Andy Hui reported that there were 40 citations and 2 accidents.

Accident 1: at 4690 Alpine – a truck swerved off the road at 3 am.

Accident 2: 12/11 on Alpine near Arastradero at 7 am. Conditions were cloudy with a wet road. 3 bicycles eastbound on Alpine were traveling towards Arastradero. A forklift was being dropped off a carrier and left partially blocking the shoulder. 2 cyclists avoided the forklift, the 3rd collided with it. Cyclist was deemed at fault – unsafe speed for conditions. Minor injuries.

Kevin questioned whether the forklift should have been offloaded on Alpine Road.

Ed asked if they were obliged to put warning cones. Sergeant Hui said that if it were there for a long time it would need warning signs, however for a short time they are not needed.

Kenny asked if it was acceptable to leave the forklift on the roadway. Sergeant Hui said if there is no room in the driveway it is acceptable.

Kevin noted rearview mirrors are used by elderly cyclists and wishes more would use them. He sees a problem with cyclists two or three abreast chatting. This forces motorists to go over the center line to give them 3ft passing space. Cars cannot give 3ft space if the cyclists are outside the shoulder or straddling the fog line.

Angela advocated for single-file cycling on Alpine. Gary disagreed. Gary cycles two abreast and likes to chat.

Kenny asked who organizes the noon ride. It was agreed that there is no formal organization for the ride. Angela suggested there was a Facebook page that the ride uses.

Kenny appreciated the detail on the accident. Kenny asked about the Indian Crossing accident.

5. Public Works Update

5.1. Rainy Season Tasks

Sports fields are closed for renovation. Tree and bush trimming is underway.

5.2. Resurfacing

Plan for resurfacing in 2020 includes 37 streets – sections of Alpine and Portola Road and potentially Golden Oak.

5.3. Fire Mitigation

Has pilot program for fire mitigation. Vegetation trimming crews are working with the fire brigade on Thursdays and Fridays. Escobar was the first street to be treated.

5.4. Trails committee comment on West side of Portola Rd – parking

The Trails Committee had informed Howard that cars are parking on the west side of Portola Road near the Windy Hill car park and impinging on the trail. The town may put logs to prevent cars from parking so close to the trail.

5.5. Questions

Gary – is there a minimum standard for contractors? He observed a trench across Alpine Road at Hillbrook that was dug, then repairs made a ridge. Howard noted it was repaved on Friday. The Public Works Department monitors trench repairs. This trench was for Cal Water to upgrade water at Firethorn. The temporary patch on trench was there for a few days as final repairs were affected by wet weather. Howard says Cal Water had a permit.

Bob – has the General Plan been amended significantly? Years ago a restaurant permit was denied at the site of Jan's Valley Inn as it was not designed for Portola Valley residents in accordance with the town general plan. He wonders if the Neely Winery tasting room serves the local town. If there is a significant number of out of town visitors it might violate the general plan.

6. Ongoing Committee Business for 2020

6.1. Committee Workshop with Town Council

On 22nd January at 7pm there is a meeting for committee leaders.

6.2. Safety Study

Howard and consultant Paul Krupka will present the recent Pedestrian Safety Study Report to the Feb 10th at 7pm to the ASCC (Architectural and Site Control Commission) meeting. Committee members are urged to attend. Council accepted the report.

Howard is preparing a notification for all the sites that are affected – sites near proposed improvements such as flashing signs. Need to inform sites within 300 ft of installations. Notices will go out week of January 27th before the Feb 10th meeting.

6.3. School Crossing Flags

Howard said the school submitted a formal request for the town to install the flags that pedestrians can carry when walking across a crosswalk. The flags, created by school children, were already installed on the crossing on Alpine Road at Corte Madera School. Ed suggested adding to the agenda for the next meeting.

Bob asked whether children could be crossing monitors with belts and signs, as he observed on State Highways 24 years ago.

6.4. Windy Hill Parking

Angela noted there is a space for a car past the brown no parking signs and wondered if the sign should be moved further along the road. Craig suggested looking at the Use Permit for Peninsula Open Space. He suggested speaking with Andy Hui at the next meeting to update patrolling for Windy Hill parking.

7. Outreach

7.1. Library

Angela passed out local bicycle maps from commute.org that are freely available in Portola Valley library.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is a Meeting on Wednesday February 5th at 8:15 a.m. in the Schoolhouse.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman, Ed Holland at 9:26am.