

TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE MINUTES - Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 8.15 am

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

ORAL/COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: None

ROLL CALL: J. Coleman, A. Doherty, E. Ferrari, S. Gold, G. Hanning, F. Leach, T. Lee, M. Rothrock. C. Hughes, Town Council Liaison; H. Young, Public Works Director; K. Stromeyer, Conservation Committee; L. Russell, Planning Director; John Donahue, Stanford Representative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular meeting of October 15, 2019. The Minutes were approved with correction as follows: 'F. Leach and J. Coleman were added to the Subcommittee on the Stanford project.' J. Coleman and M. Rothrock abstained.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Stanford Subdivision Subcommittee:** (Gary – Update/Discussion): G. Hanning was asked to form a Subcommittee as S. Gold had to step down because of a conflict of interest, as she lives nearby. G. Hanning invited Stanford to talk about the process. Trails component concerns trails. Canyon Trail not formalized, as part of it is in Westridge's jurisdiction and partly in Stanford's. That is to be worked on. L. Russell was invited to talk about the process, and J. Donahue would address the project. L. Russell said the town has received a formal application and it has been through the review process already. The Town has issued one round of comments. Next will be preliminary reviews by ASCC and the Planning Commission. An Environmental Review (EIR) will take place with an outside Consultant. The EIR takes a few months. After the Planning Commission, the review will move to the Town Council. G. Hanning says the Trails' Subcommittee is giving input on trails on the project. Feedback is important to the process. Only written comments are accepted and sent to L. Russell. When the applicant goes through the second cycle, an updated set of plans will be available to the Committee. J. Coleman asked re. the Canyon Trail. G. Hanning said that does not concern the Stanford project right now. It depends on the Westridge HOA. G. Hanning met with 2 homeowners, and suggested a meeting with G. Andreini, head of the Westridge Trails Committee. The trail could be an access for kids to school, etc. L. Russell is available to answer any of the Committee's questions. J. Donahue said Stanford owns 8,000 acres acquired in the 1880's and cannot sell the land, but only lease it. The Westridge wedge has been under the town's housing site since the 1990's. It allowed a subdivision of large lots. It is also a designated affiliated housing site and they could put up to 26 large properties on it, but Stanford has no desire to do that. 3 years ago Stanford was approached by 2 members of the Town Council to consider housing for Stanford's faculty and provide affordable housing for local workers in Portola Valley, such as teachers and staff. Stanford is working on other opportunities for housing in Menlo Park and on campus. They did not want to develop housing on large lots and wanted a project with minimal impact. The flattest area is about 6 acres for building, with the balance undeveloped. This project has not been seen before in Portola Valley, as they would be creating 27 single-family homes w/garages and some duplexes, plus 12 below-market units for the town: 4 units in 3 structures, with 6 low income and 6 moderate income. A loop road would be created, beneficial to the community and the Fire Dept and grading will be minimized. E. Ferrari asked if the balance of the land would be dedicated open space but J. Donahue said it would only be open space for the life of the project but not after. E. Ferrari asked if the trails outlined in the General Plan would be included in the project and J. Donahue said they have considered setting up a Homeowners' Association with access to some private trails. G. Hanning asked how Stanford feels about public trail easements. J. Donahue says the Alpine Road trail is ok. T. Lee asked for comments from the balance of the Committee. F. Leach asked re.

maintenance of trails and J. Donahue thought it best to have the town maintain the trails. H. Young said steps for this will be addressed farther down the road. E. Ferrari asked if Stanford was aware of the town's tradition of asking that trails be put in before a project is approved. J. Donahue said they have worked with municipalities such as Menlo Park, so are aware of different requirements. E. Ferrari said that Portola Valley is very different to any other town with its tradition – enshrined in the General plan – of asking for trails in large projects and that lands be dedicated to permanent open space.

Thanks were given to J. Donahue and L. Russell for coming and taking questions from the Committee.

b. Alpine Trail Road Remnant Subcommittee: (Ellie – Update/Discussion):

Subcommittee had submitted statement to the Ad Hoc Housing Committee, and will prepare one for the Town Council before their meeting on December 14th. C. Sander drew up a map of the unofficial trail from Willowbrook which goes over the Alpine Road remnant and joins the other town trails in the Frog Pond area. This trail over town property should be recognized as an official trail. E. Ferrari was going to check with H. Young re. the designation of the unofficial trail around Frog Pond Preserve and whether it is town property or Portola Valley Ranch. F. Leach suggested showing ancillary trail usage from the main Alpine Trail.

c. Coal Mine Ridge Open Space Maps and Signage: (Susan – Update/Discussion): S. Gold says the new signs are up at Willowbrook/Old Spanish intersection. One will be installed for Toyon. Maps are being well used. Noted trail usage explanation and hopes it deters illegal use. Town's website needs to be updated. S. Gold remembered working with C-1 trail and Stanford and how very collegial it was. F. Leach says he thinks bikes use the fire road and may park at the clubhouse.

d. Monthly (October) Trails Conditions, Work, and Budget: (Howard – Update/Discussion): Fire mitigation work has started on Shady trail. The donated Bike Repair Station has been installed at Triangle Park. Also water bars on trails are being cleaned.

New business:

- a. Confirmation of Committee Service for Next Year: (Update):** T. Lee said all members wished to remain on the Committee. E. Ferrari asked whether members wished to continue to serve in their current positions.
- b. Seasonal Trail Closure:** (Update): T. Lee says we need to prepare to close trails to equestrians for the winter season if rains do materialize.
- c. Development Plans:** (Gary – as filed and applicable): G. Hanning says that the homeowner of the new property on Meadowood has removed the leaning telephone pole. No new projects but can look at the Stanford Wedge when the plans are available.
- d. Accolades:** (Discussion, if any applicable): E. Ferrari thanked J. Coleman for helping with trail issues which come up and need attention.
- e. Adjournment:** S. Gold made a motion to adjourn, A. Doherty seconded, all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10.00 am.