

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY



Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting

Wednesday 5th February 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) and Bob Pierce attended. Kevin Welch and Kenny Chung were unable to attend. Also in attendance were Howard Young (Town Public Works Director), Craig Hughes (town council) and San Mateo County Sheriff's Office representative, Sergeant Andy Hui.

2 Approve Minutes

The minutes of January 15th 2019 meeting were unanimously approved, proposed by Ed seconded by Gary.

3 Oral Communications

Betsy Morgenthaler (500 Portola Road) noted, as she leaves her drive, she has to watch for traffic coming from the curve in Portola Road on her left. She especially looks for bicycles. Across the street is The Sequoias, a Continuing Care Community for elderly residents, some of whom drive. Also, she once had to call 911 after a truck driver exhibited dangerous behavior. She and other hikers cross the busy Portola Road to go up Windy Hill. However, she embraces the cycling and hiking communities, so that is not her complaint.

She voiced her concern over the Neely Wine proposal to open a tasting room in a barn at 555 Portola Road, noting that there are others who live closer to the site than she does. The Neely Wine barn, according to the conditional use permit, is to serve the hay fields. The plan is to convert it into a winery tasting room. Her concerns are that this will bring more traffic and possibly drunk drivers that will affect the whole town. Regarding traffic, she described the area as "tenuous".

She quoted from Resolution No. 2013-3 of the Portola Valley Planning Commission regarding 555 Portola Road. From this report, she read a list of findings and basis for a negative declaration:

7. The project will not have adverse impacts on traffic, land use, mineral resources, public service, recreating, or utilities and service systems;
8. In addition, the project will not:
 - a) Create impacts which have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment.
 - b) Create impacts for a project which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

- c) Create environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

She also noted that there will be dual entrances – one near the meadow adjacent to the Windy Hill car park. A second entrance near Jelich Ranch will become a primary access. She noted that the above report in Exhibit B, regarding the 2nd entrance, states:

“The existing gated driveway at the north end of the parcel's Portola Road frontage shall only be for secondary access, i.e. maintenance of the meadow area, emergency access and service to the meadow area agricultural uses allowed for herein.”

In Exhibit C the report says:

5. Customers may not come to the winery for the tasting or purchasing of wine.

Betsy handed out the Planning Commission's 2013 resolution to the committee with the above quotes marked. She also noted wine tasting was 7 days a week.

Betsy reminded the committee that the Planning Commission was meeting this evening - February 5th at 7:00 pm in the school house with a proposal to amend the prior Conditional Use Permit to allow wine tasting and events. She urged those present to attend.

Gerry Kohs, 115 Stonegate, brought statistics and data based on the requested number of visitors by the winery. He handed out his analysis to the committee members, which were not discussed at the meeting. For the record, they are noted here.

The statistics for maximum number of visitors (adults) are:

- Mon-Thurs 30/day
- Fri and Sun 60/day
- Sat 72/day
- Event days 10
 - 3 events with 100 visitors
 - 7 events with 150 visitors
 - totaling 1,350 visitors (adults) annually

Gerry's estimates based on these numbers:

- To and from the main driveway there would be 250 crossings/week on to Portola Road, crossing auto lanes, the shoulder(s) used by cyclists and the trail used mainly by pedestrians and horses – this is an increase of 13,000/year over the driveway's current use

Gerry views this as a serious problem and he said there are many venues for town residents' guests which he listed in his report. His report also noted the busy Westridge/Portola Road intersection. Four years ago, he noted

that the traffic volume on Portola Road at the Windmill School site was 4900 vehicles/day, excluding bicycle traffic. His concern is traffic safety.

Ted Selker (ted.selker.com) is advocating for shoulders on rural roads and has resources who can pay for that. He handed out a presentation to the committee, that noted patronage was from Scott Hassan.

There was not time for the committee to review his presentation at the meeting, but it included:

- Strava (bike tracking app) estimates for number of cyclists on rural roads
- Reasons for prioritizing a route for bike lanes - Skyline Boulevard (35) between routes 84 and 9

Ted is interested in getting letters from jurisdictions to recommend Caltrans create Skyline bike lanes, noting that Palo Alto has submitted such a letter. Craig said he would put the item on the town agenda. Ed said he would put it on this committee's agenda. Howard, said we need more information. Ted said that he was interested in bike lanes on other rural roads, including Old La Honda.

4 Sheriff's Report

4.1 ACCIDENTS AND CITATIONS

Sergeant Andrew Hui reported that there were:

- Citations – 65 - 36% were PV residents
 - Speeding – 5
 - Stop Sign – 16

5 cyclists were cited for not stopping at a Stop sign. Ed noted it is the season for pelotons.

Accidents – none

There are 2 new deputies patrolling. Andrew said he would not be attending in March, but would send an alternate.

5 Public Works Update

5.1 FIRE MITIGATION

Fire mitigation pilot – trimming vegetation on Escobar has been done. Sausal is the next street to be treated.

5.2 PREPARING FOR SPEED SURVEY

The town is preparing for a traffic speed survey, which has to be done every 5 years,

5.3 COUNTY BIKEWAY PLANNING

The town has been asked for input by C/CAG (City/County Association of Governments) on overall planning for bikeways in the county. Howard agreed to provide input to C/CAG. Ed reminded Howard that the town had

worked on widening the shoulder to accommodate bicycles in recent years. Angela suggested that there could be two bikeways in town that cyclists frequend:

- the Stanford Loop – Stanford-Alpine-Portola-Sand Hill Roads
- San Andreas Fault Trail – a through route going roughly along the fault beyond 92.

5.4 STANFORD GRANT

Stanford University is offering funds for trail projects. Howard said this was at very short notice, so he quickly submitted request for funds.

5.5 STREET RESURFACING

Streets for summer resurfacing have been marked in white.

5.6 WILLOWBROOK PARKING

Residents have requested that more of the curb be painted red on Willowbrook. Howard said he is analyzing the situation as residents cannot mandate no parking just because they don't want cars in front of their house..

6 Next Meeting

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

7 Adjournment

The meeting ended abruptly at 8:45 am when Gary Hanes had to leave. The result was no quorum and Ed adjourned the meeting.