



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY  
Special Conservation Committee  
Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday, July 28, 2020 – 1:00 PM**

**Special Videoconference Meeting via Zoom**

---

**SPECIAL VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA**

**To access the meeting by computer, click on the link below:**

<https://zoom.us/j/98732767600?pwd=a0VCUEQ3SituTHExTC9HN1g1MHFRZz09>

**To access the meeting by phone, dial:**

1-699-900-6833

1-877-853-5247 (toll-free)

**Meeting ID:** 987 3276 7600

**Password:** 943631

**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Zoom instructions – Raise hand to speak, unmute when called on.
3. Oral Communications
4. Approval of Minutes for June 23, 2020
5. Site Permits
  - a. Stanford Wedge
  - b. Neely Winery
  - c. 319 Corte Madera
6. Old Business
  - a. Oversight of Significant Town Owned Properties.
    - I. Spring Down
    - II. Town Center
    - III. Frog Pond
    - IV. Triangle Park
    - V. Ford Field
    - VI. Rossotti's Field
  - b. Committee/Town Cooperation
    - I. Public Works - Murphy
    - II. Sustainability Committee
    - III. Trails - Stromeyer
    - IV. Open Space - Chiariello
  - c. Label trees at Town Center
  - d. Milkweed – Gibson Anderson, Heiple, Kawaja
  - e. Tip of the Month - Magill
  - f. What's blooming now – Magill
  - g. Kudos
  - h. What are our Singing Frogs doing now? Murphy, Kawaja, Heiple
  - i. Changes heritage shrubs – in Planning hands
  - j. Predators / Rodenticides – Chiariello, Kawaja
  - k. Budget

7. New Business
8. Adjournment
9. Next meeting: Tuesday, August 25, 1:00 pm via Zoom

## DRAFT MINUTES JUNE 2020

### JUNE

#### Conservation Committee

#### Special Zoom meeting June 23, 2020

Present: Chiariello, DeStaebler, Heiple, Magill, Murphy, Plunder, Stromeyer (from Argentina!), Walz

Also Present: John Richards, Council liaison; Alex Kawaja, student representative

1. Call to Order at 1:03 pm
2. Oral communications - none
3. Approval of Minutes for April 2020
4. Old Business
  - a. Oversight of Significant Town Owned Properties. Priorities revised anticipating decreased available Town funding. Remainder of this year, we are focusing on weed control. Next year's budget request – assume minimal funding. 5 year plans – hopefully reasonable resumption of funding 2021-2
    - i. Spring Down
      1. Since our last meeting it has been machine mowed and GoNative has removed more Bristly Ox Tongue and thistles.
      2. The new simple trail from corner with White property has not been done. Requested by Trails, Open Space and us, it never makes it to the top of Young's list.
      3. Ailanthus re-sprouting.
      4. We will add a web cam to our budget request. Kawaja will check with a tech savvy friend from school and see if they might take this on as a project.
    - ii. Town Center
      1. Go Native has worked there several days since our last meeting.
      2. Heritage Oak tree work not done. Can omit pulling up iron banding. Limbs should be unweighted soon.
      3. Need new brochures to planting at Town Center. Chiariello and Magill will review to see if brochure needs updating before printing more.
    - iii. Frog Pond
      1. First machine mowing was done, but despite our request and Public Works apparent understanding, the mowing was not as far into the center as they could go. The ground is very dry but they actually mowed less in toward the center than last year. Unfortunately, it was done AFTER seeds were set, slowing down our eradication project.
      2. Harding Grass removal will be a huge job. We will need to be piecemeal and persistent. We will gather Danthonia seed to scatter in areas where we remove the Harding Grass.
    - iv. Triangle Park
      1. Regular maintenance has resumed. Opening up of area around large oak remains to be done.
    - v. Ford Field -deStaebler
      1. Mowing done except area just by bridge. Some ailanthus returning.
    - vi. Rosottis Field deStaebler– area looks good
  - b. Committee/Town cooperation
    - i. Public Works – Murphy
      1. Murphy had conversation with Young about the items approved in this year's budget that remain to be done. Not all can be scheduled before end of fiscal year, but monies will be rolled over and tasks done as possible.

2. Dengler – Magill visited and made map of invasives before Bixby went up to do the work. The broom had already been removed (thanks, neighbors!) and she found the cotoneaster and also several new pyracantha and some new Harding grass. Public Works declined to remove the pyracantha or Harding grass because it had not been specifically called out in the original request. I argued that they should honor the spirit of our report – which called out invasives needing removal - because they were already up there and work had been authorized and they were doing less than had been authorized, but they stuck with the exact wording. There is a large field with much Harding Grass adjacent. We will try to learn who owns that adjacent parcel and encourage them to remove the Harding Grass. We discussed whether it was worth trying to get out the amount that had strayed onto Dengler and the consensus was yes, we should keep it at bay as much as possible.
- ii. Sustainability and Environmental Resources Committee – no recent meeting
- iii. Trails – Stromeyer
  1. Trails are being mowed and some widened for better social distancing.
  2. Bikes on trails where they do not belong are an increasing problem.
  3. Concern was expressed that residents are leaving out large brush cuttings well ahead of their scheduled chipper days and increasing the fire risk.
- iv. Open space – Chiariello
  1. Young and Dennis discussed the progress of the surveying of the Frog Pond Road remnant. So far only library research has been done. Public works is recommending a consistent right of way width of 90-100' the whole distance from Hawthorns to Coal Mine Ridge. This would eliminate the long tails of the proposed Open Space area that were designed to protect the wildlife corridors. CC discussion: Since these areas are so narrow no development other than utilities is possible as is, and any future Council could reverse the decision to protect these Open Spaces, this seems reasonable. *CC agrees that a consistent 90 foot right of way along the length of Alpine Road could be established, with the remaining remnant incorporated into Frog Pond Open Space., and on site surveying to establish these boundaries should proceed.*
  2. Bikers on pedestrian equestrian only trails are an increasing problem.
  3. Map of PV Open Spaces was approved.
  4. PV Open Space brochure remains a work in progress.
  5. Shady Trail
    - a. Field trip with Heiple revealed that several residents along the trail have done appropriate fire clearing along the trail borders. A few were over enthusiastic, but nothing as bad as the clearcutting a few years ago. Town has given permission for residents to use the trail to drag out their trimming debris to where chipper can get it. Town has removed the downed limb and branches that Lipman was concerned about.
    - b. Some members wondered why no consistent and easy procedure for other trails and Open Space that need fire mitigation.

- c. Label trees Town Center. Walz has put up about 35 labels starting at the Old Schoolhouse. About 6 feet above ground and on inconspicuous side to minimize vandalism. He is mapping them as he goes.
  - d. Milkweed – (Gibson Anderson, Heiple, Kawaja) Milkweed we planted at SpringDown and Town Center doing badly. Great growth at Edgewood, Walz property and along some trails, but no Monarchs have yet been seen locally this year.
  - e. Tip of the Month – Magill – fire clearing
  - f. What’s blooming now - Magill - local milkweed. Will stress need to plant the local native variety. Next month buckwheats – they are also Monarch food.
  - g. Kudos Plunder – soon to residents who have been doing fire clearing. Later, to coincide with rollout of Predator project, one to thank folks who are no longer using poisons.
  - h. Changes heritage shrubs – in Planning hands. No response from Russell.
  - i. What are our Singing Frogs doing now? Murphy awaiting June appropriate information from Heiple so she can create post. Chinn will improve my draft and post to social media. Kawaja is working on student modules
  - j. Our Predators are Special – Rodenticides. We want to take a positive approach by focusing on the wonders of the local predators.
    - i. We need a catchy hashtag so people can post their photos and videos on their own social media with our hashtag and it will migrate to us. Chiariello and Chinn discussed best approach. Kawaja is working on student modules. We will coordinate our Kudos with roll out of predator project.
    - ii. Chiariello will check with San Mateo County Hazardous Waste to see if they can do a rodenticide collection at the next scheduled Town Waste day – August 1. If so we will set up a table with info about rodenticides and valuable predators and will make this the pivot of announcing the predator project.
5. New business
- a. Budget – We have never used the full amount budgeted to us. In light of Town’s loss of income and increase expenses from COVID we will scale everything back. Unanimously approved - see appendix A
6. Adjournment at 2:58 pm
7. Next meeting: Tuesday, July 28, 1:00 pm Zoom

**APPENDIX A**

BUDGET REQUEST OR ITEM DESCRIPTION/ACTIVITY: describe your budget request as clearly as possible.	Please	ADOPTED 2018-2019 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2019-2020 BUDGET	2020-
Fall Lecture event (probably Mountain Lion)		\$	800	0
Broom pull refreshments			150	50
Table handouts Earth Day, Town Picnic, etc			400	200
Monarch butterfly project			100	100
Co-sponsor Water Wise Garden tour spring 2020			500	200
Native plants, seeds, and seedlings			800	800
Weed wrenches 4 small			600	0
Return Rodenticides event			500	250
Town Center Native Planting Brochure			400	400
SpringDown webcam				1000

<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,250</b>	<b>3,000</b>

**APPENDIX B**

**WHERE ARE OUR SINGING FROGS THIS MONTH?**

June 2020 plan

Subcommittee Paul Heiple, Murphy

Goals: Education of residents and local students  
 Increase interest in and protection of Frog Pond  
 Community involvement

Methods:

Monthly post as in tip of month  
 Student lesson plans and encourage their research to add to info  
 Have information available on our web site.

Resources:

Knowledgeable members of committee citing Science articles  
 Alex Kawaja, Priory student help with lesson plans  
 Kari with posting to town media