

## TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY



Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

8:15 AM Online with ZOOM – usually at the Schoolhouse

765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028

### **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

#### **1 Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chairman Ed Holland called the meeting to order at 8:17 am.

Gary Hanes, Angela Hey, Ed Holland (Chair) and Kevin Welch attended. Kenny Cheung was not present. Also in attendance were Howard Young (Town Public Works Director), Craig Hughes (Town Council member), Gary Nielsen (Police Commissioner) and San Mateo County Sheriff's representative Andy Hui.

#### **2 Oral Communications – Resident and Open Committee Comments**

Betsy Morgenthaler, had written to the town and biking committee chair Ed about difficulties in leaving her driveway at 500 Portola Road. In particular, cars block her view of bicycles, particularly on weekends when Windy Hill hikers park on Portola Road. She had had her mailbox moved to increase visibility. Coming out of the exit has become more difficult recently. She noted that there are clear marking of driveways on Whiskey Hill Road and suggested that might be a way forward. Betsy said that “it was an accident waiting to happen”.

Sally Phillips (520 Portola Rd) shares a driveway with Betsy and said the number of cars parking on Portola Road has been growing steadily, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. There are cars in the shoulder of the road. People walking to their cars, bicycles coming round the corner and fast drivers make it dangerous. There is an emergency driveway for emergency vehicles to enter the property that gets blocked that has a no parking sign, but it doesn't deter parkers from blocking it on a Saturday and Sunday.

Both feel there is danger of an accident.

#### **3 Approve Minutes from the June 3rd 2020 meeting**

The minutes of the June 3rd 2020 meeting were approved, proposed by Ed, seconded by Kevin.

#### **4 Sheriff's report**

Andy said he would send a deputy to look at 520 Portola Road driveway.

##### **4.1 Accidents and Citations**

No accidents, 1 citation. The deputies are instructed to give tickets only for high liability situations because of COVID-19. Infection is a big risk when citing drivers.

Craig asked if there was tracking of speeding drivers. He noted a new state law that will require tracking of traffic that doesn't stop at stop signs. Andy thinks it applies to San Mateo County next year. He also said that currently they don't have a system record observed violations.

## **4.2 Request for Monitoring**

### **4.2.1 Speeding**

Speeding continues to be a concern. Angela noted that delivery drivers are driving past. She suggested the deputies park a Sheriff's Officer's car to deter speeders. Kevin has also noted fast drivers on Alpine Road. Betsy also noted that cars speeded, passing her on Alpine Road. Andy said he would try to deter speed.

## **5 Public Works Update**

Traffic improvements and the radar survey are on hold. There will be more discussion at budget and council meetings.

Crews have been mowing and doing fire mitigation work. Trails have been mowed. The parking lot at Rosotti's Alpine Inn field has opened, the field is closed. Parking restrictions have been removed in the Willowbrook/Alpine area. Howard wants to engage with Ed and the community to understand where people are parking and why. He would like to know if this a temporary phenomenon. Is it likely to continue?

## **6 Ongoing Committee Business**

### **6.1 BPTS Annual Report to the Town Council**

Ed gave the annual report to the council. Craig noted it was accepted.

### **6.2 Letter of Support for Ted Selker**

Committee members have commented on a draft letter in support of Ted Selker who wants to improve cycling safety on 35. Ed will send out a revised copy.

### **6.3 General Parking Monitor**

#### **6.3.1 Windy Hill & associated on street parking restrictions**

Gary Nielsen reflected on how the number of cars parking has increased since he started looking at car parking years ago. Ed gave a history of how the Windy Hill parking study has evolved.

Kevin suggested that the fine for violating the Portola Valley Municipal Code might need to be increased from \$28. Craig said that he didn't think any tickets had been written. Deputies do not seem to be ticketing people. The town council has started to discuss fines.

#### **6.3.2 Displaced Visitor opportunistic parking locations – issues**

Town residents, staff and the committee are aware of an increase in cars parked by hikers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ed suggested that we need to revisit parking restrictions. Craig asked Howard for his suggestions. Howard said he was working with the fire district, consultant Paul Krupka and town staff. He wants to reach out to residents for solutions and data collection. Angela suggested using the Corte Madera School car park on weekends. Ed suggested the business area around Roberts was another area for parking.

Ed and Kevin will form a subcommittee to discuss the parking issues further with Howard and Craig. Sally thanked the committee and said she did not think this was a temporary problem, as some had suggested earlier in the meeting. Betsy agreed there is a gradual increase in usage and on top of that there is an increase due to COVID-19. She feels that barricades are needed. Ed suggested that Betsy and Sally record any data for the committee. Kevin brought this up in 2012 as he was nearly hit with a cyclist near their driveway. Kevin counted 62 cars on both sides of Portola Road last weekend.

### 6.3.3 Request to investigate virtual outreach methods

Angela and Ed will work on this.

## **7 Matters Arising**

Howard had comments from Portola Valley Ranch residents about parking during COVID-19 on their property. Howard counted cars at certain locations in town. Ed suggested that we have a schedule for counting cars.

Angela mentioned that skateboarders are jumping over the median on Indian Crossing at Alpine. Also mountain bikers are using the Alpine Trail between Willowbrook and Indian Crossing which is marked on the town trail map and with signs saying no bikes. She mentioned that the sign by the Portola Ranch fire gate is alongside the trail and not easily seen by cyclists approaching the trail.

## **8 Next meeting scheduled: August 5th, 2020.**

The next meeting will be at 8:15 am online via Zoom on Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **9 Adjournment**

Ed adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.