



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY  
Special Conservation Committee  
Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday, August 25, 2020 – 1:00 PM**

**Special Videoconference Meeting via Zoom**

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**SPECIAL VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA**

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

<https://zoom.us/j/92055677963?pwd=eFJTWWhoYUY5ckpHOWZWY2dOM212dz09>

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

1-699-900-6833

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

**Meeting ID:** 920 5567 7963

**Password:** 148240

**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 July 28, 2020
5. Site Permits
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 Field
  - b. Committee/Town Cooperation
    - I. Public Works - Murphy
    - II. Sustainability Committee - Murphy
    - III. Trails - Stromeyer
    - IV. Open Space - Chiariello
  - c. Label trees at Town Center
  - d. Tip of the Month - Magill
  - e. What's blooming now – Magill
  - f. Kudos
  - g. What are our Singing Frogs doing now? Murphy, Kawaja, Heiple Seasonal, not monthly
  - h. Changes heritage shrubs – in Planning hands
  - i. Predators / Rodenticides – Chiariello, Kawaja, Plunder
7. New Business
8. Adjournment
9. Next meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 1:00 pm via Zoom

**JULY Draft MINUTES**  
**Conservation Committee**  
**Special Zoom meeting Agenda**  
**July 28, 2020 1:00 pm**

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

Absent: Alex Kawaja, student representative

Also Present: Jeff Aalfs, Council liaison; Rita Comes, resident; Mary Hufty, resident, Tom Buckholtz, resident; Onolee Trapp, resident.

1. Call to Order at 1:00pm
2. Zoom instructions – raise hand to speak, unmute when called on.
3. Oral communications – Welcome to our newest member, Teresa Coleman.
4. Minutes for June 2020 unanimously approved.
5. Site permits
  - a. Stanford Wedge – Third submittal reviewed and discussed.
    - i. A few of our previous suggestions were implemented: less formal landscaped look at entrances, less planting in Alpine Road setback to maintain informal, natural look, some open space in small backyards for kids to play in.
    - ii. The more impactful of our suggestions – to increase the Alpine Road setback to 100 feet and the northern setback to 40-50 feet – were not incorporated.
    - iii. Issues for this report reacting to Third submission and to be submitted to ASCC:
      1. The renderings show landscaping much as we would wish it to be – but not what the formal planting plan maps illustrate. We request still much less planting at the entrances to create a more informal and natural area in harmony with the current roadside. Our rural esthetic should be maintained; this should not look like the landscaped entrance to a development.
      2. Add *Stipa lepida* to the planting list. This *Stipa* does much better in shade than the proposed *S. pulcra*.
      3. The renderings show a utility pole by Alpine Trail – we thought utilities were to be undergrounded along this frontage.
      4. The amount of additional grading required to move the whole project to provide a setback of 40-50 feet on the north and 100 feet along Alpine Road is small compared to the major impact this would have on settling the development more comfortably into the community.
      5. A new Fire Road has been added to the plan. The exact placement of this is shown differently on the

printed plan set and the page C.5.0 on Box – which is correct? No illustration is provided to show landscaping at the entrance to this road – we hope there is none. If landscaping is planned, please provide specific plan and plant list.

6. We appreciate that the proposed trail is now a loop with a stub connection to the Alpine Canyon trail.
7. There are grave fire concerns but they are being addressed with more authority and expertise by others.
8. Concern for the wildlife habitat in the undeveloped part of the parcel should guide all decisions. To the greatest extent possible, this should be permanently protected as open space. Fire mitigation projects here need to be sensitive to wildlife.

iv. Resident comments:

1. Hufty comments that the site is an alluvial plain with 3 seasonal creeks. Stanford's own Conservation Plan created for Santa Clara County requires a 100' setback from any creek. There is no reason those standards should not be upheld here. That plan speaks of enhancing watersheds which would imply protecting creeks, not funneling water into retention ponds. When Blue Oaks subdivision was being planned, resident comments requests and comments were appreciated and incorporated. Stanford does not seem receptive or willing to collegially adapt to include our suggestions. Years of neglect with no brush clearing has created the extreme fire hazard that now exists on this hillside.
2. Comes suggests we look through the voluminous data sheets in detail.
3. Buckholtz has concerns about the fire risks of this development. He asks what the EIR will include (the newest consideration of Impact on People and Local Finances?) and when it is due. He is concerned about the windows facing the lots on Westridge and requests they be moved to the sides of the buildings rather than the rear.
4. Trapp thanks us for our detailed attention to the plans and our focus on the aspects of the plan that fall within our committee's charge from the Council.

b. Neely winery

- i. "Native shrubs to block utilities" – we would like to see a plant list and exact location on the map.
- ii. Parking Option B is strongly preferred.
- iii. The large area set aside for overflow parking is strongly discouraged. Compacted earth ruining habitat for infrequent use; incompatible with Town standards.

- iv. Concerns about increased water usage. Proposed activity will sell more wine than can be made from grapes grown here. That will require importation of grapes and the winemaking is water intensive. Source of the water? Effect of this much use on local aquifer?
  - v. Has Soundscape effect on wildlife and hikers been considered?
  - vi. Concerns that this will increase use of Windy Hill trails and already overburdened parking there.
  - vii. Assurances were made when the building was approved that there would be no commercial use; this request reneges on the agreement that allowed that approval.
  - c. 319 Corte Madera –small landscaping change to accommodate moved driveway. Gorgeous old Manzanita groundcover will be lost. Heiple made excellent list of possible replacement Manzanitas that do well locally.
6. Old Business
- a. Oversight of Significant Town Owned Properties.
    - i. SpringDown – GoNative will be working there in August. The work to re-route the trail has not yet been done.
    - ii. Town Center
      - 1. Chiariello and Magill reviewed what is actually growing before reprinting the brochure guide. The planter between the soccer field and community hall has been overtaken by non-natives, probably because this bed gets more water than the others. We will leave this bed off the new brochure. Restoration of this bed with more appropriate plants will be added to our 2021-2 requests. Mimulus has disappeared from creekbed due to trampling. A large caged Salvia has been planted by the charging station.
    - iii. Frog Pond
      - 1. Walz looked at the ground that Scott had described as too irregular to be mowed, and sees nothing unusual there. Perhaps it is the lumpiness of the Harding Grass itself. The August mowing needs to mow the ENTIRE field; raising the height of the blades if necessary. One more reason to be eliminating the Harding Grass.
    - iv. Triangle Park – the work around the northern oak has not yet been done.
    - v. Ford Field
      - 1. Rotting large mammal in cage. Was it poisoned? Murphy says it is her understanding no poison is being used anywhere in Town anymore. She will confirm with Howard and ask how often contractor empties the cages.

2. Small area at bridge does not get mowed and the seeds blow across the area and impede our weed eradication efforts. That area is mapped as belonging to the property across the bridge. Murphy had spoken to the owner when she first bought several years ago and she was very interested in weed control and putting natives there. She has dropped her plans to build an educational center there and is no longer in touch. Murphy will try to get back in touch with her to get permission to mow weeds.
  3. Needing attention now – small area of Poison Hemlock across from batting cage and Dittrichia and Yellow Star Thistle behind the bleachers are seeding.
  4. The Ailanthus is sprouting again, but much less than before. Magill and Walz will attack it.
- vi. Rosottis Field – looks good
- b. Committee/Town cooperation
- i. Public Works – Murphy reports they are busy primarily with fire mitigation efforts and administrative catching up from COVID closure. Young is examining voluminous materials relating to land boundaries, easements, etc of Frog Pond Road remnant.
  - ii. Sustainability and Environmental Resources Committee has not met since our last meeting.
  - iii. Trails – Stromeyer
    1. Permit for Neely Winery: a subcommittee was formed to look at issues related to trails
    2. Howard was on vacation last week, but reported in writing that mowing on CMR has been completed. Focus has been shifted to fire abatement two trees on Shady trail have died due to SOD
    3. Temporary signage on Alpine trail has not deterred bikers from using the trail anyway. New signs designed by committee members need to be approved by the town. Signs are ignored by out of town bikers; barriers may be needed.
    4. Sequoia Trail continues to be closed to protect the residents at Sequoia during Covid 19. Jeremy will have a meeting with their Director.
    5. Virtual meetings will continue to replace in person meetings for the foreseeable future
    6. Committee Membership: currently at seven with the goal to get back to nine members. Committee members will review applications that have come in with the goal to have representation from different areas of the town as well as a balance between hikers, bikers and equestrians
  - iv. Open space – Chiariello next meeting 7/30 at 7:30 pm

- c. Label trees Town Center steady progress by Walz.
  - d. Milkweed – few at Spring Down. Many throughout Town Center and private properties through the town. Monarchs only rarely spotted this year here. The appropriate local milkweeds grow readily from seed.
  - e. Tip of the Month – Magill –Dittrichia!
  - f. What's blooming now – Magill - Milkweed
  - g. Kudos – none this month
  - h. What are our Singing Frogs doing now? Murphy, Kawaja, Heiple. New for August posting – as fall cools and nights get longer dew forms that encourages the frogs to begin returning to the pond and making dryland calls.
  - i. Changes heritage shrubs – still in Planning hands
  - j. Predators / Rodenticides – Chiariello, Kawaja, Plunder.
    - i. Next hazardous waste collection here 10/10/20
    - ii. Photos and videos being posted on Instagram with #ProtectPVWildlife and #PoisonFreePV. Appeal to residents to post will be put on Forum. The best will go on a section of our web page.
  - k. Budget approved last month and Murphy sent to Town.
7. New Business - none
  8. Adjournment 3:11 pm
  9. Next meeting: **Tuesday, August 25, 1:00 pm** Zoom

Bottom left of map (beds 1-6)

<b>1</b>		
California fescue	<i>Festuca californica</i>	G
Blue flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	W
Crimson columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	W
Bush anemone	<i>Carpinteria californica</i>	S
California coffeeberry	<i>Frangula californica (Rhamnus c.)</i>	S
California huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	S
Oregon grape	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	S
Spicebush	<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	S
Toyon, Christmas berry	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	S
<b>2</b>		
Blue wild-rye	<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	G
Alum root	<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	W
Wood strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	W
Red-flowered buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum grande var. rubescens</i>	SS
Bush anemone	<i>Carpinteria californica</i>	S
Island snapdragon	<i>Gambelia speciosa (Galvezia s.)</i>	S
Red-flowering currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	S
Western redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	S,T
<b>3</b>		
Pacific aster	<i>Symphotrichum chilense (Aster c.)</i>	W
California buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	SS
Coast buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum latifolium</i>	SS
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	SS
California coffeeberry	<i>Frangula californica (Rhamnus c.)</i>	S
Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry	<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	S
Howard McMinn manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora "McMinn"</i>	S
Ray Hartman California lilac	<i>Ceanothus "Ray Hartman"</i>	S
Santa Catalina Island currant	<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	S
<b>4</b>		
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Robust verbena	<i>Verbena lasiostachys</i>	W
California flannel bush	<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	S
Howard McMinn manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora "McMinn"</i>	S
Rock-rose (non-native)	<i>Cistus (native to Medit.)</i>	S
Saint Catherine's lace	<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>	S
Western redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	S,T
<b>5</b>		
Blue wild-rye	<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	G
California poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	W
California sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	S
Cleveland sage	<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	S
Coast silk-tassel	<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	S
Coyote brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	S
Lemonade berry	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	S
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	S
Toyon, Christmas berry	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	S
<b>6</b>		
Western sword fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	G
Dwarf coyote brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis (Twin Peeks)</i>	SS
Dwarf manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	SS
Oregon grape	<i>Berberis aquifolium "compacta"</i>	SS

To view plant lists for this half, keep left flap open & close right flap inward.

To view plant lists for this half, keep right flap open & close left flap inward.



Bottom right of map (beds 19-23)

<b>19</b>		
Gumplant	<i>Grindelia hirsutula</i>	W
Narrow-leaf milkweed	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	W
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	W
California rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>	S
California sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	S
Straggly gooseberry	<i>Ribes divaricatum</i>	S
Coyote brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	S
California buckeye	<i>Aesculus californica</i>	T
<b>20</b>		
Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	F
Pacific rush	<i>Juncus effusus ssp. pacificus</i>	G
Spreading rush	<i>Juncus patens</i>	G
Rosilla, Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium puberulum</i>	W
American dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	S
Pacific ninebark	<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	S
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	S
Twinberry	<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	S
Arroyo willow	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	T
Pacific willow	<i>Salix lasiandra</i>	T
<b>21</b>		
California brome	<i>Bromus carinatus</i>	G
Purple needle grass	<i>Stipa pulchra (Nassella p.)</i>	G
California figwort	<i>Scrophularia californica</i>	W
California fuchsia	<i>Epilobium canum (Zauschneria c.)</i>	W
California poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	W
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Gumplant	<i>Grindelia hirsutula</i>	W
Narrow-leaf milkweed	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	W
Pacific aster	<i>Symphotrichum chilense (Aster c.)</i>	W
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	W
California rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>	S
California buckeye	<i>Aesculus californica</i>	T
<b>22</b>		
California fescue	<i>Festuca californica</i>	G
Deer grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	G
Blue flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	W
California fuchsia	<i>Epilobium canum (Zauschneria c.)</i>	W
California poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	W
Coyote mint	<i>Monardella villosa</i>	W
Narrow-leaf milkweed	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	W
Pacific aster	<i>Symphotrichum chilense (Aster c.)</i>	W
Seaside daisy	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	W
Showy milkweed	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	W
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	W
Coast buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum latifolium</i>	SS
Creeping sage	<i>Salvia "bee's bliss"</i>	SS
Shasta sulfur buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	SS
California lilac	<i>Ceanothus</i>	S
California sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	S
<b>23</b>		
Creeping sage	<i>Salvia "bee's bliss"</i>	SS

Top left of map (beds 7-11)

	<b>7</b>	
California poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	W
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Foothill penstemon	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	W
Seaside daisy	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	W
Western blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	W
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	W
Creeping sage	<i>Salvia "bee's bliss"</i>	SS
Coyote brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	S
California buckeye	<i>Aesculus californica</i>	T
Valley oak	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	T

	<b>8</b>	
<i>This bed receives additional moisture and has become predominantly non-native, but a few native species are noteworthy:</i>		
Western sword fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	F
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Seaside daisy	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	W
Emerald carpet manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos "emerald carpet"</i>	SS
California sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	S
Blue elderberry	<i>Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea</i>	S,T

	<b>9</b>	
Giant chain fern	<i>Woodwardia fimbriata</i>	F
Western sword fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	F
Purple needle grass	<i>Stipa pulchra (Nassella p.)</i>	G
Alum root	<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	W
Crimson columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	W
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Yerba buena	<i>Clinopodium douglasii (Satureja d.)</i>	W
Coast redwood	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	T

	<b>10</b>	
Deer grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	G
Spreading rush	<i>Juncus patens</i>	G
Alum root	<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	W
Crimson columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	W
Pacific aster	<i>Symphotrichum chilense (Aster c.)</i>	W
Redwood sorrel	<i>Oxalis oregana</i>	W
Seaside daisy	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	W
Western blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	W
Yerba buena	<i>Clinopodium douglasii (Satureja d.)</i>	W
Coyote brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	S
Toyon, Christmas berry	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	S
Mountain dogwood	<i>Comus nuttallii</i>	S,T

	<b>11</b>	
Deer grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	G
Purple needle grass	<i>Stipa pulchra (Nassella p.)</i>	G
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	W
Valley oak	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	T



Honeybees collecting pollen and stealing nectar from Crimson columbine, bed 9

More information on landscaping with native, water-wise plants that are adapted to local environments can be found at: <http://portolavalley.net/sustainability/native-plants-and-landscaping>

Portola Valley residents who leave part of their property open to wildlife, encourage native plants, and discourage invasive species are encouraged to consider applying for a Backyard Habitat Award. Information about the program is available at: <http://www.portolavalley.net/town-government/town-committees/conservation-committee-/backyard-habitat-program>

Portola Valley Conservation Committee  
Spring 2016  
Second revision, August 2020



Honeybee visiting narrow-leaf milkweed, bed 22



Anna's hummingbird visiting Chaparral currant

## NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

### Portola Valley Town Center

Some of Portola Valley's most obvious and valued assets are its natural features—meadows and woodlands, creeks and ponds, native plants, and creatures of the land, water, and sky. In keeping with the Town's emphasis on sustaining the natural environment, the Town Center's landscaping has a minimum of hardscape, a daylighted stretch of creek, and plants that are native to the local area and California. A remarkable aspect of the Town Center landscape is its variety of habitats: dry meadow, riparian (streamside), and stands of oaks and redwoods with diverse understories.

This brochure is a guide to the Town Center's plantings, combining a map of 23 beds and some noteworthy plants in each. The plantings contribute to a peaceful, varied environment that attracts and benefits wildlife as well as people. Through the seasons you can see plants at different life stages; observe insects and birds collecting nectar, pollen, fruits, and seeds; view combinations of plants that naturally do well together because of similar requirements for sunlight, water, and drainage; and enjoy landscaping that is successful and beautiful without pesticides or supplemental watering after establishment.

Most of the beds have too many plants to list all of them here, so this brochure emphasizes some of the showy, dependable native plants in each bed, and a couple of plants that are non-native but non-invasive and water-wise. Plants are listed by common name and scientific name. Cultivar names are included if known with reasonable confidence, but other cultivars may be similar.

Top right of map (beds 12-18)

	<b>12</b>	
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Creeping sage	<i>Salvia "bee's bliss"</i>	SS
Red-flowering currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	S
Coast live oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	T

	<b>13</b>	
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Coast live oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	T

	<b>14</b>	
Deer grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	G
Purple needle grass	<i>Stipa pulchra (Nassella p.)</i>	G
California fuchsia	<i>Epilobium canum (Zauschneria c.)</i>	W
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Foothill penstemon	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	W
Creeping sage	<i>Salvia "bee's bliss"</i>	SS
Valley oak	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	T

	<b>15 &amp; 16</b>	
Purple needle grass	<i>Stipa pulchra (Nassella p.)</i>	G
Coyote mint	<i>Monardella villosa</i>	W
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Foothill penstemon	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	W
Seaside daisy	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	W
Creeping sage	<i>Salvia "bee's bliss"</i>	SS

	<b>17</b>	
Blue wild-rye	<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	G
California poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	W
Coyote mint	<i>Monardella villosa</i>	W
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Pacific sanicle	<i>Sanicula crassicaulis</i>	W
Seaside daisy	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	W
Western blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	W
Wood strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	W
Autumn sage (non-native)	<i>Salvia greggii (native Texas &amp; Mex.)</i>	SS
California coffeeberry	<i>Frangula californica (Rhamnus c.)</i>	S

	<b>18</b>	
Deer grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	G
Douglas' iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	W
Creeping sage	<i>Salvia "bee's bliss"</i>	SS
Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i>	S

<b>Key:</b>	F	ferns, horsetails
	G	grasses, rushes, sedges
	W	wildflowers, non-woody perennials & groundcovers
	SS	subshrubs & more-or-less woody groundcovers
	S	shrubs
	T	trees

Scientific names are based on The Jepson Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. If the scientific name has changed recently, the earlier genus name is in parentheses. For example, "*Frangula californica (Rhamnus c.)*" indicates that the earlier name was *Rhamnus californica*.