

SPECIAL TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE MINUTES - Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 8.15 am.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8.17 am.

ROLL CALL: J. Coleman, B. Eckstein, E. Ferrari, S. Gold, G. Hanning, M. Nicholls. A. Hey, guest, Jim Green, guest, Danna Breen, Guest, Karin Eckelmeyer, Guest. C. Hughes, Town Council Liaison; H. Young, Public Works Director; C. Stromeyer, Conservation Committee.

ORAL/COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: Welcome to Mike Nicholls, a new member of the Trails and Paths Committee. G. Hanning received an email from Ragni Pasturel, who lives on Palmer, and they are asking the town to look into putting in a trail down Sausal to Golden Oak on the north-west side as there is a small town trail easement there. G. Hanning will talk to H. Young regarding the feasibility of this and bring it up in a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: S. Gold proposed a motion to approve the August minutes, E. Ferrari seconded and all were in favor except B. Eckstein who abstained as she was not at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Trail Conditions, Work, and Budget, August 2020:** Howard – Update/Discussion: H. Young says he has cleared fallen trees, weeded and removed brush near Ford Field, per Trail Work Report. They are still doing fire mitigation on Westridge, Alpine and Portola Road and will be doing winter work on drains and water bars shortly. H. Young has put some money in the proposed budget to fix the Cervantes trail, rocking and grading. This was on the Capitol Improvement list, which includes all-weathering the Sequoia trail.
- b. **Temporary Signs:** Group – Discussion: The temporary town signs indicating No bikes on Trail are at the entrance to the Sequoia trail by the parking lot, on Hillbrook, on Alpine trail opposite Glenoaks Stables, on Shady Lane and on Alpine by the Frog Pond. A. Hey says the location of the sign on Alpine near Corte Madera school is in a dubious location. H. Young says we usually keep them up for 2 weeks and then take them down but will keep them up longer during the Pandemic as there is heavier usage. Bikes are a problem especially on Shady trail and local residents have complained. G. Hanning proposed a special meeting of the Committee, noticed by Sharon Hanlon, to check on the town trail on Alpine Road, of which there are two: the Dwight Crowder trail, which is paved, and the dirt trail on the opposite side. This is to do with bicycle usage and Safe Routes to School. S. Gold asked that the mountain lion signs be removed as they are quite old.
- c. **Replacement Metal Signs:** Subcommittee/Group – Discussion: G. Hanning asked the committee to count the number of old signs on the metal poles. We know the location of some of the signs: there is one by the Frog Pond, one on Alpine near the PV Ranch, also at both entrances of Shady trail and also an old sign bolted to a tree. Although the wording is outdated, it is an opportunity to create some new signs with better wording and place these on the metal poles. S. Gold wants to respect the older signs and not put up more signs. A. Hey suggested more signs to deter bikes. S. Gold worked with Craig

Sanders and C. Stromeier on the Ranch signage and it was agreed that it was done well, with maps giving alternate routes for cyclists. G. Hanning stressed having consistency on signs and also where we put larger signs. H. Young says the current town signs were installed in 2000 but the old metal signs go back much farther. He suggested we review the history of them.

- d. **Sequoia Trail Status:** Group – Discussion: For the first two weeks, volunteers opened and closed the trail but G. Hanning emailed the Sequoia Director that we would leave them up permanently with the wording on it, that it is closed from 8.00 am. Tuesday through 5 pm. Wednesday of every week for the residents to use. K. Eckelmeyer, a resident of the Sequoias, and her husband, Roland, had noticed that there are 3 different names for the Sequoia trail and wondered which was the official one. G. Hanning said it is the Sequoia trail although MROSD has it as the Sequoias trail on their maps. K. Eckelmeyer was concerned about bikes and horses using the trail as it is very narrow in one steep area. G. Hanning says bikes are not allowed on this trail but traditionally horses have used it for years. G. Hanning will talk with H. Young about widening this section when they get ready to re-rock it. G. Hanning has also asked Mid-Pen to move the No Bikes sign closer to Spring Ridge, and also direct users to the Windy Hill parking lot area. This is an opportunity to put a No Bike sign on the metal pole at the Willowbrook entrance to this trail. K. Eckelmeyer says outsiders are going onto the Sequoias' property at Reservoir Hill.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Safe Routes to School:** Group – Discussion: M. Nicholls wondered why the trails around town can't be widened to let school kids use them on bicycles. It was explained that the Westridge trails are town easements going over private property and bikes are not allowed. Also, widening town trails would involve changing the easements and homeowners would have to be involved and agree. G. Hanning suggested that M. Nicholls meet with him and H. Young to discuss Safe Routes to School. Jim Green, a local resident, suggested using the ranch trail above Willowbrook as a Safe Routes to School trail, as he believes there is an easement there. D. Breen says it is a private trail but she would like to have it become a town trail and will work with the 6 homeowners to garner their support and report back to the Committee.
- b. **Dogs on trails:** Group – Discussion: M. Nicholls has 2 easements on his property: one is multi-use and the other is an equestrian easement. He has found bags of dog feces dumped on his property weekly and asks what can be done to educate users to stop doing this. G. Hanning suggested he write something up for Kari Chinn, the town webmaster, to put on the website. J. Green has noticed plastic bags are alongside trails and although there is a trash can at Willowbrook/Alpine, it is not used as bags are dumped nearby. H. Young says he can check with the town re. a service but it would entail follow-up and the town staff is only 3 people for 36 miles of trails. As an aside, J. Green noted the town trail map is dated 2007.
- c. **Parking on Willowbrook Update:** Group – Discussion: There was a zoom meeting with Willowbrook residents and Ed. Holland of the Bicycle and Safety Committee, J. Dennis, the town manager, and H. Young, to discuss cars parking on the street. J. Dennis had

asked this to be put on our agenda. J. Green says residents on upper Willowbrook have a problem with traffic and bikes on Willowbrook/Alpine. Also bikes going fast down Willowbrook. Have visibility problems entering and leaving driveways. The Safety Committee recommended painting the curb red on the even side and extending the red line on the curb. J. Green asked for a one-car space red line so he can see to get out of his driveway. Also, homeowners at 130, 140, and 150 also want this on their curbs so they can see to get out. D. Breen asked that construction vehicles and trash cans stay off the town trail as there was a close encounter with equestrians encountering a big garbage truck and being unable to use the trail to get off the road on Willowbrook. Can send a letter to homeowners.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: E. Ferrari made a motion to adjourn, B. Eckstein seconded, all were in favor. The meeting ended at 10.40 am.