



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY**  
**Special Trails and Paths Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 19, 2021 8:15 AM**

**Special Videoconference Meeting via Zoom**

---

**SPECIAL VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA**

**Remote Meeting Covid-19 Advisory:** On March 17, 2020, the Governor of California issued Executive Order N- 29-20, suspending certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act in order to allow for local legislative bodies to conduct their meetings telephonically or by other electronic means. Pursuant to the statewide Shelter-In-Place Order issued by the Governor in Executive Order N-33-20 on March 19, 2020, and the CDC's social distancing guidelines which discourage large public gatherings, Portola Valley Town Council meetings are being conducted electronically. The meeting is not available for in-person attendance. Members of the public may attend the meeting by video or phone linked in this agenda

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://zoom.us/j/95497166851?pwd=bVZmRGJwU2NrdTBkT0kwbzI3bXVBZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 954 9716 6851

**Password:** 721647

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

1-699-900-6833

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

*Mute/Unmute - press \*6*

*Raise Hand - press \*9*

1. Call to Order
2. Oral / Community Communications
3. Approval of Minutes from December 1, and December 15, 2020 Meetings
4. Election of Officers
5. Old Business
  - a. Trail Conditions, and Work for December 2020 – Howard Update/Discussion
  - b. Stanford Wedge Trails Update: Group Discussion
6. New Business
7. Other Business
8. Adjournment

**Enclosures:**

Minutes – December 1, and December 15, 2020  
Trails Work Map & Memo

**SPECIAL TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE MINUTES** – Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 8.15 am

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 8.18 am.

**ROLL CALL:** J. Coleman, B. Eckstein, E. Ferrari, S. Gold, G. Hanning, F. Leach, Teresa Coleman, Conservation Committee, K. Stromeyer PV Ranch and Conservation Committee. H. Young, Public Works Director, Jeremy Dennis, Town Manager, Laura Russell, Planning Director. Guests: Connie Argo, Valerie Baldwin, Danna Breen, Rita Comes, Kristi Corley, Rusty Day, Mary Hufty, Jean Isaacson, Judith Murphy, Sarah Wernikoff, Karen Vahtra.

**ORAL/COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS:** Laura Russell asked Susan Gold to recuse herself from public comments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** S. Gold suggested that under Old Business, c. Alpine trail signage, the sentence on the 7<sup>th</sup> line should read as: “S. Gold noted the town should resurrect the town’s plan to widen the Alpine dirt trail in front of the old Wood’s estate.” A motion was made by E. Ferrari to approve the Minutes of November 17, 2020, with this correction, seconded by S. Gold, and everyone was in favor.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS:**

- a. **Stanford Subdivision Project Update:** Laura Russell and Jeremy Dennis: A subdivision triggers language in the General Plan Trails Element; connectivity is the main point. The application is nearing completion and starting to solidify. Stanford put forward a trail proposal but there has been no collaboration. L. Russell says they have been working with a consultant (Stephanie Davis) to review all the plans which are technically related. These are being funneled to the ASCC and the Planning Commission and the Preliminary review will be in the New Year. Public review is welcomed at that time. Draft Environmental Impact Review comes out in the New Year and will return to the Trails Committee for final recommendations, and will take time to get them through all these public meetings. The Special Subdivision Committee includes groups outlined in the town code. J. Dennis says it is not uncommon for applicants not to address all issues during the initial process.
- b. **Project Q/A:** Group, Laura Russell and Jeremy Dennis: G. Hanning asked if there is any impact on trails with the Environmental Impact report. L. Russell said yes. J. Coleman stressed the importance of the wildlife corridor along Canyon trail. G. Hanning supports a direct meeting with Stanford and the SubCommittee official process in the code and asked when we can sit with Stanford and address trails. He is anxious to have trail needs incorporated before the project goes ahead. L. Russell: The Subdivision Committee is the committee which would be the official body to meet with them and she has elaborated the trail issues with the applicant. Comments should be made clear to ASCC and the Planning Committee. Rita Comes left a message with the following questions: 1. Are the current documents with Stanford on the town website? 2. Can we have meetings noted to the public as a recent meeting was not? D. Breen: Who hired the EIR team and how were they chosen? L. Russell: The town solicited public proposals and the selected consultant was approved by the council. D. Breen: Staff should include all proposals to committees before too far along. Rusty Day: Once a

tentative plan is submitted, the Subdivision Committee should be notified. Under the ordinance, Section 17.20.15, 17.21.170, the Trails Committee has a right to prepare a report to the Subdivision Committee and then that Committee prepares its own report. Who are the members of the Subdivision Committee and what meetings have been held and are they public? Who are the people on the Subdivision Committee? L. Russell: All committees who are pertinent have been notified. ASCC appointed a member, individuals from other committees have been appointed, and L. Russell thinks she is the chair. R. Day: Asks this be on a website so public comments can be directed to the Subdivision Committee. Mary Hufty: When she was Chair of the Trails Committee for the Blue Oaks development, the Town Engineer and the Conservation Committee walked with the developer and trails were established before any construction took place. Feels there is no-one looking at the land on this project. The Town Engineer, the Planning Director and the Trails Committee should be familiar with the trails and acknowledges this subdivision is very different from the previous development. G. Hanning: The structures should be subservient to the land as in previous developments. Kristi Corley: Notices this is the first time it is being rolled out through the Trails Committee and not to residents first. Thinks many new young families who cannot attend early meetings, cannot weigh in. G. Hanning will consider time change for Trail Committee meetings. K. Corley: Requests that Planning Committee meetings should be put on the PV Forum and Next door. L. Russell will consider. L. Russell: Project will be brought up to ASCC and Planning Commission. B. Eckstein: Are comments from the Trails Committee being included and will a Subdivision Committee meeting be upcoming? L. Russell says comments will be included and a meeting will come later. R. Day suggested getting the SubCommittee Subdivision Committee going now and holding a meeting. K. Corley: When Stanford had its first airing of the proposal in the School house, were the comments registered? L. Russell will ask Stanford for community outreach comments thus far, if they have any.

- c. **Review 2<sup>nd</sup> round Trails and Paths comments:** Group: G. Hanning: Next round would be asking applicant to formalize the Canyon trail, a central element in the trails network. Suggest working with Stanford re. part on Stanford land (from gate to Alpine), and top part leading to Cervantes (part of which is on private land and residents would need to work with the Trails Committee). Also want to extend an upper loop trail to Pine Ridge/Minoca area on the newly found town trail. We are going beyond the Trail Element and asking for a new trail. Karen Vahtra, member of the Town Fire Committee, felt an upper loop would be an asset as a fire break and would provide access to keep the area clean. R. Day: Canyon trail runs along a box canyon where there is a fault off lower Westridge Drive called the Hermit fault. This would provide an important evacuation route in the event of fires or earthquakes. Trails should be considered as easy evacuation routes therefore restoration of the Canyon trail is important. Second area: Ohlone occupation habitat has been noted and the southern ravine is the area with Ohlone artifacts. Our committee should honor indigenous artifacts and preserve them, especially as the truck turnaround goes in this area. Traditionally trails are not considered exit routes as they are not wide enough for cars but are important for bikes or foot traffic. K. Stromeyer: Laura Jones from Stanford is working on the Ohlone history.

- d. G. Hanning: Alpine Road dirt trail is very noisy and suggestion is to move the trail further in from Alpine Road. B. Eckstein says it is important to widen the trail and make multi-use. In the Trail Standards on the town website, the requirements and usage of the trail determines how they are built. Next step is for the Subcommittee, (F. Leach and J. Coleman) to draft the next round of comments. K. Corley: Why are we not able to walk the trails ? Stanford talks of a 'great partnership' with the town in a recent publication and she thinks this is quite misleading. G. Hanning says he had hoped we would have had a collaborative effort. Rita Comes: Submitted comments to Stanford and heard nothing back. Felt any meetings should be publicly noted and Stanford should be held to the same standards as other applicants, such as homeowners. K. Stromeyer: Conservation Committee and Trails Committee have similar concerns and should work together. M. Hufty: Stressed the importance of the wildlife corridor aspect, especially from Arastradero to Jasper ridge.
- e. **Discuss reply to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> round Trails and Paths proposals:** Group:  
The Trails Committee supports and affirms the following proposals: 1. The Alpine Road dirt trail be moved away from Alpine road onto Stanford land. 2. Wants Stanford to formalize the Canyon trail from Cervantes to Alpine road. 3. Wants Stanford to formalise an upper loop to the Pine Ridge/Minoca area on the newly found town trail.

**ADJOURNMENT:** E. Ferrari made a motion to adjourn, F. Leach seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10.15 am.

**SPECIAL TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE MINUTES** – Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 8.15 am.

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

**ORAL/COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS:** G. Hanning announced K. Stromeyer will be retiring from the Conservation Committee and Rita Comes will take her place. The Trails Committee would like to acknowledge Anne Wengert's service as she has resigned from the Town Council. Thanks also to Danna Breen for her work with the town as she has resigned from the ASCC. Welcome to Sarah Wernikoff, new member of the Town Council.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from Tuesday, December 1, 2020, will be transferred to the January 19, 2021 meeting for comments and approval.

**OLD BUSINESS:** H. Young put 27 hours on trail maintenance and water bars and checked storm drains and infrastructure for heavy rains. No Bike signs put out on Alpine trail, in response to complaints from hikers, were ripped down and barricades tossed. Despite suggestions on how to solve this problem, G. Hanning and B. Eckstein stated that with the development of the Stanford Terrace, Stanford has to make this trail multi-use as this has been an on-going issue for 10 years or more. Re. Westridge trails, R. Comes asked why no work has been done. H. Young pointed out these are not town trails, only from Portola Road to Possum. The town does mow on Westridge but that is all. Person to contact is George Andreini. Re. closing trails: S. Gold and E. Ferrari have closed the trails in the PV Ranch, Blue Oaks, Larry Lane and Hayfields area to equestrians for the winter. E. Ferrari has asked Kari Chinn to post to the town website.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. 2021-2022, Fiscal Year Initiatives and Programs: Group Discussion and Prioritization: Need extra monies for inclusion in budget. Make individual priorities from the public or the committee and email Joe Coleman. B. Morgenthaler suggested widening the Portola Road town trail between Windy Hill and the town center, due to the Spring Ridge winery expansion. The winery has included a turnaround inside the gate to avoid back-up at the entrance. We will be keeping an eye on the safety issues.
- b. Stanford Portola Terrace Application: Group Discussion and Response: Application is complete and moving to the Entitlement stage. Stanford's preferred trail solution does not conform to the town's General Plan. 1) Upper loop trail (not on Trails and Paths Element) 2) Alpine trail widened and made multi-use 3) Canyon trail, formalize from end to end, Cervantes to Alpine, also old Woodside Trails Club trail. On Stanford's website (which C. Hughes thinks is just for marketing purposes), Dwight Crowder is mentioned as hiking, biking and general use and Alpine Road dirt trail as equestrian only. Misleading to say Stanford is in conformance and it should be noted that the Trails Committee does not agree with statements made relevant to the General Plan. R. Comes: Feels these

inaccuracies should be corrected on Stanford's website. Vacancies are currently open on the ASCC and the Planning Commission right now and need public input as to candidate selection and choice. Suggestion to put the Committee's opinion, either on PV Forum or our own website. C. Hughes suggests forming a sub-committee to ASCC or Planning Commission to advocate for our idea, disagreeing with Stanford's plan. The committee can send an email or letter to this public forum, with a cc to the Council. It is important for the Subdivision Committee, the ASCC and the Planning Commission to know these issues before they meet. Can say we approve the project on condition they work with the Trails Committee on the trail map, showing they are not in compliance with the town's General Plan. Stanford has a right to develop this property, and if Stanford wants the town to make concessions, town can ask for tradeoffs, i.e. trails. G. Hanning asked if our General Plan is open to change for a particular client? Can the town attorney give us legal counsel? The town attorney represents the Council and the town but we need to go through Council to get permission. Rusty Day: disagrees this is a legal process but a town process to use the General Plan to implement the General Plan. It is a negotiation, not a legal dispute, asking Stanford to implement our General Plan if they want to develop. Subdivision Commission should bring all together to set up negotiating points to discuss with developer. Should happen before any ASCC and Planning Commission meetings. Subdivision Sub-Committees have not been convened since tentative plan was filed. Right now, town residents know nothing about this project until this meeting. We need to hear from all our town committees re. their views on this proposal so residents know about this proposal. Why are not all our committees and residents involved in this process from the beginning? C. Hughes: disagrees with the charge Stanford is getting special treatment. B. Morgenthaler: responding to Craig's point, it is frustrating that when addressing the Council and Planning Commission, only 3 minutes is allowed. Feels last minute notification of meetings during this Covid period over week-ends needs more of a heads-up. G. Hanning is still awaiting a reply from Laura Russell re. Subdivision Committee meeting. C. Hughes: 2023 -2031 – will have to build a project like this every year in the future so need to create a considerate system for applicants that is not contentious. F. Leach: we should highlight previous projects which have been completed successfully, i.e. PV Ranch, Blue Oaks, to set proper expectations and standards. R. Day: re scaling, can we scale our building projects to address state mandates? Why was the Subdivision Committee not active in decision suggestions and given public voice, before being dumped on ASCC and Planning Commission at the last minute? We have a process which is in place to distribute responsibility. G. Hanning: need to have a public confirmation process of our own to inform the town. Stanford is a housing affiliate and is not stepping up to the plate. Need to beef up committees to handle future projects. Trails are very important to our town, it is our identity.

Our Subcommittee has F. Leach, J. Coleman and G. Hanning on it. B. Morgenthaler supports the airing of this topic and lauded F. Leach for calling out how previous projects were handled. Feels the Council may feel that they tend to view the public as one group and not as individuals. Also feels more diversity is needed on the Town Council.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** E. Ferrari made a motion, F. Leach seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10.13 am.



# MEMORANDUM

## TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

---

**TO:** Trails and Paths Committee

**FROM:** Scott Weber, Maintenance Worker  
Howard Young, Public Works Director

**DATE:** **January 12, 2021**

**RE:** Trail work for December 2020

Attached is the trail work recording form completed for December.

The total maintenance staff hours worked in December was 35 hours.

The total contracted staff hours worked December was 0 hours.

Total hours worked: **35 hours**

**Attachments:** Trail Map  
Work sheet



Trail	Length	Work Completed	Date
Admiral Quilter	0.5	Cleared water bars	12-9
Alpine	3.0	Cleared water bars	12-1
Arroyo	1.6		
Bay Laurel	0.5		
Black Oak	0.8		
Blue Oak	0.5		
Buckmeadow	0.5		
Cervantes	1.3	Cleared water bars	12-16
Cherokee	0.2		
Coalmine	0.8		
Deer Path	0.7	Cleared water bars	12-2
Dwight Crowder	2.0		
Eagle	0.6		
Fawn	0.3		
Fire Road	0.5		
Firethorne	0.1		
Georgia	0.3		
Golden Hills	0.7		
Golden Oak	0.2		
Grove	0.6		
Hay Forks	0.7	Cleared water bars	12-15
Hillbrook	0.4	Cleared water bars	12-3/4
Indian Crossing	0.4		
Iroquois	0.2		
Lake	0.4		
Larry Lane	1.5	Cleared water bars	12-1/10
Los Trancos	1.1	Cleared water bars	12-1
Los Trancos Rd	0.4		
Meadowwood	0.4		
Minoca	0.7		
Nathorst	0.3		
Old Spanish	1.9		
Palmer	0.6		
Portola	2.3	Cut brush	12-3
Possum	0.2		
Priory	0.5	Cleared water bars	12-21
Redberry	0.2		
Sausal	0.6		
Sequoia	0.5		
Shady	0.8	Cleared water bars	12-3
Shawnee	0.5		
Sunrise	0.8		
Sweet Springs	0.8	Cleared water bars, repaired trail post	12-1/22
Toyon	2.4		
Veronica	0.2	Cleared water bars	12-9
Westridge			
Willowbrook	0.8		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36.0 miles</b>		

