



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting

Wednesday 5th May 2021

8:15 AM Online with ZOOM

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety (BPTS) Committee Meeting Minutes

1 Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Ed Holland called the online Zoom meeting to order at 8:15 am.

Patt Baenen, Gary Hanes, Angela Hey, Ed Holland (Chair) and Kevin Welch attended. Also in attendance were Howard Young (Town Public Works Director), Craig Hughes (Town Council member), Andy Hui (San Mateo County Sheriff's Office representative) and Gary Nielsen (Town Police Commissioner).

Residents attending included Joanne Klebe, Betsy Morgenthaler, Sally Phillips and Caroline Vertongen. In addition, Alex Casbara (planner Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District), Karen Lucian (Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Portola Valley School District) and Roberta Zarea (Superintendent Portola Valley School District).

2 Oral Communications – Resident and Open Committee Comments

Caroline Vertongen asked about Safe Routes to School. Ed said he had reached out to the school district and they are appreciative of the committee's help. Roberta Zarea will work with the school to determine the status of Safe Routes to School and contact Ed.

3 Approve Minutes from the April 7th 2021 meeting

Ed proposed that the minutes of the April 7th 2021 meeting be accepted, Patt seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

4 Sheriff's Report

Andy Hui gave the Sheriff's Report.

4.1 Accidents and Citations

4.1.1 March

In March, there was 1 collision westbound Alpine near Golden Oak, an older adult driver felt drowsy and fell asleep. There were 35 citations, 5 stop sign violations and 4 speeding citations. Also 125 parking citations were issued in March

4.1.2 April

April data is incomplete, so Andy will provide the committee with final data. He thought there were about 75 citations in April.

4.2 Personnel Update

As Caroline Vertongen noted in the opening comments, Captain Christina Corpus is no longer Police Patrol Commander. Instead, Lieutenant Mark Myers is now acting division commander.

Andy said that the Sequoias are working with emergency services on wildfire evacuation.

Patt asked if Andy could report more detailed demographics. Andy said the Sheriff's Department just scratches the surface. In the future, he can give the percentage of out of town citation numbers. For in depth information a PRA (Public Records Act) Request is needed for more details. Gary Hanes and Kevin wanted to go on record saying they were not asking the Sheriff's department to report on the race of drivers.

Betsy Morgenthaler wanted to more detail on the parking citation numbers.

Craig said there is a state law (RIPA – Racial and Identity Profiling Act – AB 953 = <https://post.ca.gov/Racial-and-Identity-Profiling-Act>) that requires law enforcement agencies to collect more details on traffic stops. It depends on the size of the agency and San Mateo County does not have to report until April 2023, so San Mateo County will start collecting data by January 2022. Craig asked whether it would be simpler to give the committee data after this. Andy says the county is evaluating new different reporting system vendors. One vendor, Turbo Data for parking is supported.

5 Public Works Update

5.1 Resurfacing

The road resurfacing project has gone out to bid. Included are 9 locations within the pedestrian safety study for restriping. Bids are due May 25th. If favorable, then resurfacing is expected to take place between August and October.

5.2 Rapid Flashing Beacons

Grant agreements for rapid flashing beacons were signed. These will be budgeted for the coming fiscal year.

5.3 Fire Mitigation Crew

The fire mitigation crew is working 2 days a week. The public works department is also removing slough, i.e. dirt on the edge of the road.

Town staff are monitoring parking at Ford Field and Zotts (Alpine Inn).

Right-of-way mowing will start soon.

Ed asked about an update for the Corte Madera encroachment permit. Corte Madera School needed two permits:

- (a) a site development permit
- (b) an encroachment permit.

After a first round of comments, the applications for permits were resubmitted either last Friday or Monday and they will be pushed out to the departments for review imminently.

Gary asked about monitoring of parking perpendicular in the right of way. Howard said he would monitor it.

6 General and Ongoing Committee Business

6.1 Discussion of proposal for modified parking controls on Portola Rd, in the Vicinity of Midpeninsula Open Space Access

Angela gave a presentation on the problem of cars parking on Portola Road by people who hike Windy Hill. She said a recent count last Saturday had double the numbers seen a year earlier. Peninsula Open Space Trust calendar suggests Windy Hill as a place to hike in May. Ed gave comments. Kevin said he'd been working on parking on Portola Road since 2011. Kevin said he'd seen town portable no parking signs on Willowbrook and wondered whether residents could post them. Howard said they cannot.

Sally Phillips appreciated the time and effort committee members put into analyzing the parking situation. She said there are wheels on the pavement and people are getting cited. Then there are vehicles off the pavement that may not be cited but are in dangerous positions.

Betsy Morgenthaler said the danger of the curve on Portola Road near Willowbrook needs to be taken seriously.

Kevin and Gary Nielsen had worked on the problem for years. Howard suggested talking to traffic consultant Paul Krupka.

6.2 Vote: This Committee recommends additional parking controls on Portola Rd in the vicinity of Windy Hill, and use of unambiguous signage

Ed proposed the above motion and Patt seconded it. Angela and Ed will form a subcommittee to work with Howard and Craig on positioning of signs so recommendations can be made to the town council.

6.3 Portola Terrace ("Stanford Wedge") Request of Planning updates

Jeremy Dennis emailed Ed saying that a draft Environmental Impact Report for the Stanford Wedge project was expected later in the summer.

6.4 Neely Winery traffic report and request of Planning updates

Howard will ask Laura Russell for the status of the traffic report and any planning updates.

6.5 Corte Madera School Planning – Request update on Encroachment Permit

See earlier under Public Works.

7 Events

On May 22nd, from 10am – 1pm, for Bike to Anywhere Day, BPTS committee members will hold a bicycle tune up and helmet fitting event with an energizer station at Triangle Park at the corner of Alpine and Portola Roads.

Ed asked for confirmation from town staff that banners can be put up in two locations publicizing the event – at town center and Ford Field.

Patt explained we are working with Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition. 25 goody bags have been ordered.

8 Matters Arising

8.1 Safe Routes to School

Karen Lucian and Roberta Zarea (School superintendent) will check with the town schools what resources they have for Safe Routes to School and follow up with Ed.

9 Next meeting

The next general meeting is on Wednesday 2nd June at 8:15 AM, via Zoom.

10 Adjournment

Ed adjourned the meeting at 9:13 am, and thanked participants for keeping their comments short.