

SPECIAL TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE MINUTES – Tuesday, July 20, 8.15 am

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8.15 am.

ROLL CALL: E. Ferrari, A. Doherty, B. Eckstein, S. Gold, J. Coleman, G. Hanning. C. Hughes, Town Council Liaison; H. Young, Public Works Director; T. Coleman, Conservation Committee. Guests: Jane Bourne, Betsy Morgenthaler, Wanda Cavanaugh, Katherina Stromeier, Rita Comes, Dan Quinn, Dudley Carson, Bob Turcott, Craig Sanders, Mary Hufty and Danna Breen.

ORAL/COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: Memo from John Donahue re. ADU's in the Stanford project is attached. It arrived too late to be included in today's meeting. Betsy Morgenthaler –concerned about debris on the Sequoia trail and the plan from The Sequoias to clean it up. H. Young said the town gave permission to clean up debris on the side of the trail. They are having the work done themselves. G. Hanning is awaiting the mitigation plan and the Trails Committee will comment when we see it. Plan should include removing all debris and re-planting of native plants, per Danna Breen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: J. Coleman made a motion to approve the minutes of May 18, 2021, E. Ferrari seconded, and all were in favor. Thanks to Teresa Coleman for taking them.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Trail Conditions, Work, and Budget for May/June 2021 - Howard Update/Discussion: Mowing started early. Fire mitigation crew is working on Westridge and Alpine Road (paid by the town) and our own crew. PGE has started their own work clearing vegetation. Mowing has increased since spraying stopped.
 1. Parking on trail at 160 Fawn: Update – Howard: 3 projects there. Sent Building Inspector out many times. Howard talked to the project manager on a conference call and warned them that vehicles will be ticketed and/or will shut project down. 160 Fawn project to finish shortly. G. Hanning thinks trail can be closed so please refer to Trails Committee. B. Eckstein mentioned steel plates on trail for weeks, as well as on Fawn. H. Young issued encroachment permit recently. C. Hughes: Need to follow up on these permits to ensure trails are kept safe.
 2. Homeowner sign on Hillbrook trail: Update – Howard: Keep getting complaints on this. H. Young talked to owner and mentioned that this is a public trail easement through private property. H. Young has come to the Trails Committee before re. people, horses and dogs wandering off town easement. They are entitled to a No Trespassing sign on their property.
- b. Woodside Fire Protection District Large Parcel Fire Mitigation: Gary Update/Discussion/Recommendation: Working on ordinance to have large property owners, over 50 acres, to be submitted to Fire Dept at this stage (i.e. Blue Oaks, the PV Ranch and the Neely property). Won't come before Trails Committee. Gary talked to Don Bollard re input from Trails Committee to work them into ordinance. Committee to think about what our input should be, e.g. protection of trails and wildlife habitat. C. Hughes suggests a member of the committee meet with him as his plan is formulated. Teresa Coleman – involve Conservation Committee. Comments included fire mitigation, enhancing habitat, plan and execution. G. Hanning will move forward. Suggests a check list prior to next meeting. H. Young said Judy Murphy was involved with fire mitigation on the Sequoia trail.
- c. PV Trail Map Subcommittee: group – Update/Scheduling – Will schedule and meet in person.
- d. Alpine Trail Subcommittee: Group – Update/Scheduling – Will schedule meeting.

- e. Stanford Faculty Housing Subcommittee: Group – Update – John Donahue working with Laura Russell to schedule site tour for committees and Subdivision and Subcommittee for site visit.
- f. Signage Request from PV Ranch: Group – Discussion/Recommendation – Problem persists with people bringing dogs even though ranch people have talked to them. PV Ranch, at their own expense, want to put up signs on Toyon and Old Spanish trails. Susan Gold questioned the wisdom of more signs as the signs at Alpine Road/Willowbrook state clearly no dogs or bikes, as does the sign 20 yards up at the junction of Toyon and Old Spanish trails. B. Eckstein suggests checking all websites to ensure they state dogs are not permitted. B. Eckstein asks for the research that traffic has gone down since signs have been erected. G. Hanning suggested putting up temporary signs for 6 months, and monitor statistics to see if it is working. G. Hanning made a motion to place 2 temporary signs up for 6 months, J. Coleman seconded, all were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Request from Conservation Committee to Create Ordered List of Trail Mowing: Group – Discussion – Already appointed one member from Conservation committee. Need someone from Trails committee. Joe Coleman will volunteer. H. Young makes an effort to avoid wildflowers and times the fire mitigation. Dan Quinn thanked Howard for careful trails clearing and saving the Indian Peak plant.
- b. Trails and Paths Review of ADU applications: Gary – Discussion, Development of Checklist: Recommendations – ADU’s are now approved in 30 days. Gary talked to Laura Russell about putting items on an ADU checklist, i.e. is there a trail easement on subject property and is it on the plans ? We don’t look at ADU’s and need to get to Laura quickly. Contact Gary if anyone wants to work with him before our next meeting. This will be on the Agenda for next month. C. Hughes believes the 4 foot setback is from the property line, not the trail. Thinks ADU’s are allowed to build right up to trail easement. Screening could be used to push ADU’s back from trail. Already using ‘carrot and stick’ review. Gary wants all trails protected, deeded or permissive. Wants to work with the applicant to have them understand and appreciate the trail system. Planning commission inserted the provision that homeowner consults with Trails committee but the Town Council considered it a waste of time and expense if ADU had to be moved. Bob Turcott thought this was covered in pre-application process. Gary says the Trails’ review is only 1 or 2 days.
- c. Closure of Alpine Canyon Trail: Group – Discussion: Trails committee never involved with this ADU. Closure is in our purview. Incumbent on us to take every opportunity to formalize that trail, done through Subdivision process. Need to work with property owners from Westridge. Suggest homeowners along that trail engage with Trails committee. Possibly some sort of prescriptive easement there. Many prescriptive easements exist in the Woodside/PV Fire District. If it had come to us before, we would have told them a trail was there. Gary stressed importance of our trails, especially during this pandemic. Wants to bring in residents with permissive easements on their properties as we are very respectful of land use laws and are here to facilitate a solution. Feels the new residents of the Stanford development would appreciate the efforts of this committee to support this trail. Per C. Hughes, apparently the Open Space Committee has been considering acquiring easements and using its funds to cover legal costs, as property is too expensive to acquire. This has been run by the town attorney. Mary Hufty said that the former Fire Captain, Denise Enoa, had stressed the importance of the Canyon trail in the event of a fire. Bob Turcott lives near the upper portion of Canyon and noted danger of objects flying downhill, as there is human activity around the rim. Not acceptable to build trail within 25 feet of creek and suggest that an alternative route should be considered, such as putting it on the other side of Canyon. Re. creek beds, not sure of new rules governing trails by creeks. Gary Hanning will put this on the Agenda for next month.

- d. Electric Bikes on Trails/Paths: Group – Discussion: No motorized vehicles allowed on our trails. Stress safety element. Not allowed on Windy Hill. Bob Turcott says bikes still meet definition of ‘motorized vehicles’, whether engaged or not. Gary will reach out to Kari Chinn re. getting word out on town website.
- e. 2022 Horse Fair: group – Discussion: B. Eckstein says the Horse Fair will happen again, especially in view of the many new residents in town who have not seen it. Will get date nailed down. Gary met with Dog Park people. One of locations is where we hold the Horse Fair and the town picnic. Don’t see it moving forward as it will be too near town trail. Conservation committee has concerns, too. Need to help them find a new location.
B. Eckstein mentioned that there are black chips on the town trail at 170 Cherokee and it is hard to see the trail. Check with homeowner to change.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. None.
The meeting was adjourned at 10.50 am.