



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY**  
**Conservation Committee Meeting**  
**February 22, 2022**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Special Videoconference Meeting via Zoom**

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

**Roll Call:**

Members present: N. Chiariello T. Coleman, P. Heiple, C. Magill, J. Murphy, M. Plunder, M. Richards, D. Walz, J. Zimmermann

Also present: J. Richards (Town Councilmember liaison)

**1. Oral Communications:** J. Murphy stated a goodbye party for former Committee members is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**2. Approval of Minutes for January 26, 2022:** The minutes were *approved unanimously*. (M. Plunder abstained)

**3. Permits**

- a. Site permits :
  - 300 Alamos – completed
  - 1195 Westridge – completed
  - 385 Westridge – pending scheduling with homeowners
- b. Tree permits – Sequoias oak trees: site visit performed; completed

**5. Old business**

a. Broom Pull

Due to the lack of rain and resulting dry soil, the broom pull scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. The cancellation communication will mention existing broom can be cut off at approximately one foot to prevent seeding and to allow for the stem to be pulled with weed wrenches next year when conditions are more favorable. The Committee want to thank community member Don Eckstrom for his efforts in identifying and mapping several locations where broom is a problem around Town.

b. Oversight of significant Town-owned properties

i. Town Center (Richards) – subcommittee has not met. The grassy area near the creek will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting.

ii. Spring Down (Murphy) – The volunteer weed whacking effort on Sunday January 30<sup>th</sup> was conducted. Go Native will perform weeding the second week of March.

iii. Frog Pond (Zimmermann) – The Town has a contract with MIG and has received a “Frog Pond – Habitat Enhancement and Invasive Species Management Plan” proposal and estimate for potential work to be performed at the Frog Pond. The provided estimate exceeds the \$5000 budget allocated by the Town (for this fiscal year ending in June). J. Zimmermann will review the plan and meet with H. Young to discuss options and next steps. N. Chiariello mentioned the team that previously performed the biological survey for the Frog Pond is willing to return this Spring when the area plants are living. J. Murphy indicated the action plan developed for the Frog Pond is used by H. Young when he constructs his budget and suggested the removal of several pine trees noted in the plan might be appropriate for funding through PV Donates. J. Zimmermann noted the next scheduled chipper day for the Ranch is May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

iv. Triangle Park – no update

v. Ford and Rossotti’s fields (Walz) – Some mowing has been done at Ford field. It is too early for additional weeding at either Ford or Rossotti’s fields.

vi. Hawthorns (Zimmermann) – no update

c. Committee/Town Cooperation

i. Public Works – The maintenance plan for the Sequoia Trail should be focused on fire prevention and mitigation, including removal of poison oak, small bay tree sprouts and broom to minimize fire risk. It was also suggested an effort be made to preserve some of the natural regrowth of oak seedlings and saplings along the trail.

ii. Trails and Paths (Coleman) – mowing of town trails will be performed earlier this year due to the dry conditions.

iii. Open Space (Chiariello) – Vision statements for the Frog Pond, Spring Down and the Dengler preserve are being developed. J. Dennis talked about fire reduction activities on Open Space parcels, is expecting proposals and will be reviewing with the Committee. She also stated there have been updates requested for some areas on the newly created Open Space maps.

iv. Committee on Committees for Housing Element (Murphy) – currently are looking at which sites could be appropriate for higher density housing.

v. Wildfire Preparation (Chiariello) – Developing fire risk maps for Town areas. There is a concern about what setbacks should be and evacuation routes.

vi. Sustainability – no update

d. Backyard Habitat (Plunder) – no update

e. Tip of the Month (C. Magill) – Thistle seedlings

f. What’s Blooming Now? (C. Magill) – Hounds tongue, ceanothus, milkmaids

g. Kudos (Plunder) – removal of pine tree seedlings

h. Redwoods subcommittee – Water-stressed trees will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

i. ADU checklists – awaiting clarification from L. Russell. C. Magill and M. Plunder will work on developing Conservation elements for the ADU checklist.

j. Rodenticide subcommittee (Chiariello) – A dead fox was found on a driveway on Westridge on February 8<sup>th</sup> and has been sent to UC Davis for testing. The fox appeared visibly normal (did not show the typical signs of potential rodenticide poisoning). If deceased wildlife can be sent to the Stanford veterinarian or to UC Davis quickly, testing for potential rodenticide exposure can be performed.

**6. New Business:**

- a. PV Donates suggestions
- Cameras at Spring Down
  - Signage of local history on trails and in Open Space areas

**Adjournment:** 8:53 PM

**Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Tuesday March 22nd at 7:00 pm via zoom