



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

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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)

Guest: J. Bourne

**1. Oral Communications:** M. Plunder asked when in-person Committee meetings can resume. J. Richards replied in-person meetings will possibly resume in mid-April, pending the setup of appropriate equipment at the Old Schoolhouse (to facilitate hybrid meetings).

**2. Approval of Minutes for February 22, 2022:** The minutes were *approved unanimously*.

**3. Site and Tree Permits**

- a. Site permits :
  - 385 Westridge – waiting response from architect
  - 3 Buck Meadow – 5 year easement restoration has been completed
  - 41 Stonegate – preliminary review completed and submitted to Town (will require additional review when planting plans are further developed)
  - 9 Buck Meadow – preliminary review completed (awaiting Arborists report)
- b. Tree permits:
  - 50 Hayfields – approved (one oak tree)
  - 350 Grove - Seven of nine oak trees approved for removal; two eucalyptus trees suggested for removal
  - Sequoias redwood trees: approved removal of two almost dead trees

**4. Old business**

- a. Oversight of significant Town-owned properties
  - i. Town Center – subcommittee: chair M. Richards; N. Chiariello, C. Magill

ii. Spring Down (Murphy) – Mowing will be performed approximately once/month for the next few months. Subcommittee is J. Murphy (chair), M. Plunder, P. Heiple, N. Chiariello. G. Nielsen from Open Space is also participating with subcommittee.

iii. Frog Pond (Zimmermann) – J. Zimmermann has scoped out work to be performed by Town volunteers in advance of the next scheduled chipper day for the Ranch on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is some concern regarding the close proximity of the ongoing school construction to the Frog Pond and prohibited visible lighting at night; a walk around will be conducted with PV Ranch on March 23, 2022. Fire mitigation activities have been performed by the Town for Frog Pond Park and Alpine Road.

iv. Hawthorns (Zimmermann) – report has been sent to the committee regarding the removal of star thistle, broom (meeting scheduled for March 23, 2022).

b. Committee/Town Cooperation

i. Public Works – A preliminary draft of the maintenance plan for the Sequoia Trail has been created.

ii. Trails and Paths (Coleman) – fire mitigation activities will be occurring on Golden Oak and Cervantes in July and August.

iii. Open Space (Chiariello) – no update.

iv. Sustainability (Murphy) – Cal Water cannot hire workers to install smart water meters. Nature and Science is proposing doing a compost-related activity, possibly at the Town Picnic.

v. Wildfire Preparation (Chiariello) – The committee is revising their charter and will no longer include a subcommittee on evacuation (Emergency Preparedness Committee may take over; to be determined by Town Council) and will be focusing on home hardening, vegetation. NIST has developed a 77-page document on home hardening which includes detailed modeling. The focus of the Canyon report being developed by Jennifer Youstra was raised; should it be focused on vegetation removal, decking or some other topic? It was noted Cal Fire has an excellent website on home hardening.

c. Backyard Habitat (Plunder) – no current applications

d. Tip of the Month (C. Magill) – Mowing/weed whacking

e. What's Blooming Now? (C. Magill) – Wildflowers (buttercup, blue eyed grass)

f. Kudos (Plunder) – none

g. PV Donates – send any ideas to Chair Magill.

h. Recommended plant lists – subcommittee is Magill, Coleman and Richards

i. ADU checklists – awaiting clarification from L. Russell.

**5. New Business:**

a. Mountain Lion study at MROSD – the Santa Cruz Puma Project will be collaring mountain lions in the area to better understand their movements and habitat range.

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b. Ready for Wildfire Sprint – this community-wide clean-up project of the right-of-ways will be initiated with Alhambra Court.

c. Housing Element and Town open space – Frog Pond Park has been surfaced as a possible site for potential housing development as it was not “parcelized” by the Town at the time it was established. Subcommittee (chair- Murphy; also Plunder, Magill) will look into identifying town owned properties and their security from development.

**Adjournment:** 8:17 PM

**Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Tuesday April 26th at 7:00 pm via zoom