



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Conservation Committee Meeting
April 26, 2022
7:00 PM
Special Videoconference Meeting via Zoom

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

Roll Call:

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

Absent: J. Richards (Town Councilmember liaison); J. Murphy

Guests: J. Bourne, K. Corley

1. Oral Communications: M. Plunder asked when in-person Committee meetings can resume. C. Magill replied the Town will be trying their new hybrid technology at the Town Council meeting on April 27th and in-person meetings will possibly resume in May.

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

3. Site and Tree Permits

- a. Site permits :
 - 9 Buck Meadow – preliminary review completed (awaiting clarification of Arborists report)
 - Cal Water Station 33 –site visit to be scheduled
- b. Tree permits:
 - 415 Golden Oak – all trees were dead; permit was approved

4. Old business

a. Oversight of significant Town-owned properties

i. Town Center – TBD timing of walk around by subcommittee

ii. Frog Pond – J. Zimmermann is working on scheduling a meeting with MID and H. Young regarding Frog Pond proposal. Requested tree removal was approved for Indian Crossing Neighbors expressed concern regarding the possible timing of tree removal and trimming activities; it will be confirmed there are no active nests prior to any tree removal. Woodside Fire will perform tree trimming and removal at Frog Pond Park. The Boy Scouts have been delayed until some future time (may be utilized for cat tail removal?).

b. Committee/Town Cooperation

i. Public Works – Residents are encouraged to request any pruning for “views” of trees in Open Space areas be submitted to the Town so they can be addressed as part of the annual maintenance tree trimming process. Public works will be thinning trees and bushes along Portola Road to allow for improved views along this scenic corridor. M. Plunder asked that the mowing schedule for Spring Down be revisited as this year’s mowing cut the poppies before they had an opportunity to bloom and reseed.

ii. Trails and Paths – Trail mowing has allowed some growth of invasives (because Town is no longer spraying or using weed killers); the Town is looking at introducing natives to these areas (will do so in conjunction with Conservation Committee input).

iii. Open Space– no update.

iv. Wildfire Preparation (Chiariello) – The committee has not met (did not have a quorum). The Town Council will consider the revised committee charter and decrease of number of members from nine to seven. Conservation will have a table at the Wildfire Preparedness Fair on May 14th.

c. Backyard Habitat (Plunder) – no current applications

d. Tip of the Month (C. Magill) – be mindful of nesting birds while performing clearing and pruning.

e. What’s Blooming Now? (C. Magill) – wildflowers, including Globe Lilly (*Calochortus albus*)

f. Kudos (Plunder) – pulling of thistles

g. Conservation items for ADU and other ministerial checklists – Suggestions were briefly discussed. Include on checklist that a permit is required for removal of any significant tree. N. Chiariello raised the concern of what might be included as proposed plantings for ADUs (such as screening hedges, redwoods in inappropriate locations). K. Corley stated she is concerned about protecting heritage trees and would strongly support the Town requiring heritage trees be preserved if possible. C. Magill will be meeting with J. Dennis and L. Russel and will clarify what Conservation’s input to the checklist(s) should be.

h. Recommended plant lists – subcommittee will be scheduling a meeting

i. Housing Element and Town open space – Subcommittee will be looking to identify any parcels under consideration for multi-unit housing development that don’t have deed protection.

5. New Business: none

Adjournment: 8:18 PM

Date & Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday May 24th at 7:00 pm via zoom