

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY



Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 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 8:30 am.

Angela Hey, Ed Holland (Chair), Patt Baenen and Kevin Welch attended. Also in attendance were Howard Young (Town Public Works Director), Paul Krupka (Traffic Engineer) and Sergeant Andy Hui (San Mateo County Sheriff's Department). Alex Casbara from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Greg from the Alpine Inn also attended.

Residents attending included Rita Comes, Kristi Corley, Jean Paul Coupal and Caroline Vertongen.

### **2 Approve Minutes from the October 6th 2021 meeting**

Chair, Ed Holland, proposed acceptance of the minutes from the October 6th committee meeting and Kevin Welch seconded. No queries were raised and they were unanimously accepted. The November meeting of the BPTS committee was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

### **3 Oral Communications – Resident and Open Committee Comments**

Caroline Vertongen said that for a long time, many locations had traffic issues that need to be addressed including Golden Oak, Willowbrook, Georgia Lane, 2 entrances at the Priory, Alpine Road crossing to Corte Madera school. She would like these issues addressed.

Ed said that there had been no further interaction on Golden Oak with the BPTS Committee. It was between the town and the residents. Also there had been no recent discussion on the Priory or Georgia Lane. Ed said it was not correct to say that the BPTS Committee had not addressed issues – for example some crosswalks had recently been updated.

Caroline said that Corte Madera and the Priory were part of the 2018 traffic study. She is worried about fast traffic, people looking at their phones and buses.

Ed said there is progress on the crossing projects and asked Howard to update the committee.

Howard said that in addition to the study, the recent 2021 resurfacing project had traffic improvements at 9 junctions. Howard noted that some crosswalks had been repainted and that a grant had been awarded for lighted crossing signs at the Priory school. He also noted that as a result of recent BPTS work and consultant Paul Krupka that the curbs on Willowbrook had been painted red at recommended locations.

Howard said that he and three maintenance workers form the public works department. Only Howard works in the office and many of the items of concern are on the list of items planned for the public works department.

Kristi Corley wondered about the status of flashing beacons at the corner of Golden Oak and Alpine. Howard said the next project was the outreach to the public and the engineering design as well as putting out bids.

She asked if there were plans to add foliage so she would not see the beacon flashing. Howard said that Kristi might want to look at putting screening on her property. Ed said it was unlikely that it would be flashing at night.

Jean Paul Coupal repeated his opposition to allowing parking on Golden Oak near the Alpine Inn, and expressed concerns over safety. He asked whether it would help to raise a petition by residents in pursuit of stricter controls.

Chair Holland, in consultation with Mayor Derwin and Vice Mayor Hughes, asked Town Staff to prepare a list of short term and longer term actions that could be taken to keep the acceptable parking within limits. It was suggested that these might include "Park Off Pavement" and "Littering Fine" type signage, as well as other landscaping, besides the log and fence, to make the safe parking area distinct.

## 4 Sheriff's Report

Andy said there were:

- 11 moving citations, mainly stop sign violations and speeding at Alpine and Portola junction
- 67 parking citations
- 2 accidents - one in the 300 block of Westridge Drive, the other at Meadowood Drive and Golden Hills Drive. Both involved solo vehicles colliding with power poles.

Kristi recalled two accidents at 280 and Alpine Road and would like to know when there were accidents there. Andy said it was an area patrolled by the California Highway Patrol. Ed said it was outside the area the BPTS committee monitors.

Rita asked if we received reports from near the Alpine Inn regarding the Arastradero Road area. Ed thought we could ask Palo Alto police department for information.

Traffic has gone down since people have returned to work after COVID.

## 5 Public Works Update

### 5.1 Howard's Report

Since the last meeting the public works department has worked on traffic improvements:

- paving on 24 streets
- improving road markings and signs at 9 locations

The curb was power-washed and painted red on Willowbrook near the junction with Alpine Road and where the road divides.

Fire mitigation work continues on Alpine and Portola Roads.

Catch basins and culverts have been checked and cleaned.

Reseeding of turf fields has started and there will be Field Closed signs placed this week.

Trails have been maintained to allow water to drain.

Hybrid meeting systems will be in the future.

Kristi noted mud in the water catch-basins on Alpine Road. She noted erosion near the ditch.

## 5.2 Parking Controls For Windy Hill

Ed asked if there were any updates on parking controls for Portola Road.

Paul Krupka has shared preliminary work with Howard. He has done the field and office elements of the study. He is working on a draft report that will be reviewed by Howard, it will be based on:

- review of the BPTS recommendations
- assessment of various factors
- review of parking counts
- state collision data
- interviews Windy Hill staff, town staff, Sergeant Hui
- short vehicle, pedestrian and cyclist counts
- count of parked cars.

Krupka noted that his observations lined up very well with Gary Nielsen's traffic count inputs and input from the committee. He saw potential for conflict as people walked in the road. He looked at sight lines and where there were sight limitations. Generally, stopping sight distance at most places was OK, except on the corner by the Windy Hill parking sign on Portola Road.

On the east side of Portola Road near Willowbrook he suggested might be a location for no parking signs, and across Portola Road too where he needs to confirm parking dimensions. He has also reviewed the parking areas on Portola Road near Stonegate. He didn't find evidence of cars parking near the bridge on Portola Road, east of Willowbrook.

## 5.3 Neely Winery Tasting Room

Rita Comes wanted information on the conditional use permit update for the Neely winery. Paul noted that substantial concern has been raised regarding offsite parking impact. He has not studied it, but is aware of it. Howard said it is best to speak to the Planning Department about it. Ed said the BPTS committee will address the Neely winery parking in a future meeting.

## 5.4 PV Ranch Signage request

Paul Krupka has looked at the request for an additional speed limit sign on Valley Oak and Howard said Portola Valley Ranch is allowed to put an additional sign there.

# 6 Ongoing Committee Business

## 6.1 Committee Membership for 2022

Patt and Angela will think about continuing service on the committee, Ed is willing to continue serving, as is Kevin.

## 6.2 Portola Valley Housing Element (HE) update

Ed will represent the committee on the Housing Element update. Patt proposed that Ed serve on the committee, with Kevin as the backup, seconded by Angela. The motion was unanimously approved.

### 6.3 Discussion of priorities for Housing Element update process as relevant to BPTS – Request for Committee input

Patt said we should drive the process forward as it has been hard to get any action for years. So Patt asked that Ed keep his eye on the ball.

Kristi asked if there was a meeting date for the Housing Element Subcommittee. Howard suggest Ed speak with town planner Laura Russell. Kristi noted other cities are increasing impact fees for developers, so the town needs to consider impact fees to help cover costs.

Rita has been participating in the Housing Element Subcommittee meetings. She says the meeting minutes are weak and need more detail.

Caroline said residents' views need to be taken into account, not just consultants. She feels that there's a problem with town management if residents continue to get ignored.

### 6.4 Request for updates on the "Stanford Wedge" EIR

No current updates.

## 7 Events

### 7.1 Zots-to-Tots Review

Committee members participated in volunteering for the Zots-to-Tots race from the Alpine Inn to the Town Center. It was a safe and well-run event with road closures on Alpine and Portola Roads. Ed thanked the Sheriff's office and volunteers. The road was closed while runners, cyclists and others participated in the race and Ed would like to see that in the future.

### 7.2 Ideas For New Events

Ed asked for ideas for Events in 2022.

## 8 Matters Arising

Kristi wants live meetings. Ed says take it up with town staff.

Jean Paul noted the Almanac article (Nov 10, 2021 entitled "Neighbors fed up with overflow parking from popular Alpine Inn in Portola Valley") caused Lori Hunter from the Alpine Inn and Greg to call him. The Alpine Inn has been waiting more than 18 months for a permit to make an exit road. Why isn't the town giving the Alpine Inn a reply to their plan to build an exit?

Greg had communicated with Ed on the parking. Wants the problem prioritized at the Town Council level.

Howard said he had not received an application for a permit for a 2<sup>nd</sup> driveway from the Alpine Inn.

## 9 Next meeting January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8:15 AM, Via Zoom

The next general meeting of the committee is on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 8:15 AM, via Zoom.

## 10 Adjournment

Ed adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m.