

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Sustainability Committee Meeting
September 15, 2022
7:00 PM

Scott Elrod, Chair
Rebecca Flynn, Secretary
Walter Hays, Member
Ronny Krashinsky, Member
Jason Saleh, Member
Loverine Taylor, Member

VIRTUAL MEETING

REMOTE MEETING COVID-19 MEETING ADVISORY: On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, amending the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) to allow legislative bodies to continue to meet virtually during the present public health emergency. AB 361 is an urgency bill which goes into effect on October 1, 2021. The bill extends the teleconference procedures authorized in Executive Order N-29-20, which expired on September 30, 2021, during the current COVID-19 pandemic and allows future teleconference procedures under limited circumstances defined in the bill. Portola Valley Town Council and commission and committee public meetings are being conducted electronically to prevent imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. COVID-19 is still a major health concern and virtual attendance to the Town Council meeting is encouraged, particularly during case increases.

ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Town Clerk at (650) 851-1700 or by email at mthurman@portolavalley.net 48 hours prior to the meeting start time. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

To access the meeting by computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81457751471?pwd=eEd2aFUyQVdpL3hmUnNwSmxmMFk1UT09>

Webinar ID: 814 5775 1471

Passcode: 572054

To access the meeting by phone:

1-669-900-6833 or

1-888-788-0099 (toll-free)

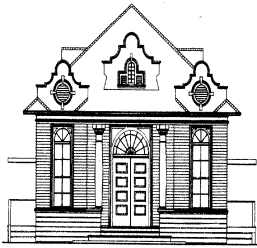
*Mute/Unmute – Press *6 / Raise Hand – Press *9*

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
Speakers' time is limited to two minutes.
- 3. INTRODUCTIONS**
- 4. PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a. Minutes of 8/18/2022
- 6. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Updates from Brandi
 - b. Updates from MaryAnn
 - c. Picnic final preparations
 - d. Public service announcements (September – Drought, Lovey)
 - e. WELO update
 - f. Committee involvement with induction cooktop loaners
 - g. Committee involvement with En-ROADS climate simulation activity described at 8/18/2022 meeting by Steve Levin
- 7. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. Election of a Vice Chair

8. NEXT MEETING AND PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is October 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Sustainability Committee Meeting
August 18, 2022
7:00 PM

Scott Elrod, Chair
Stefan Unnasch, Vice Chair
Rebecca Flynn, Secretary
Walter Hays, Member
Jason Saleh, Member
Loverine Taylor, Member

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL
7:00 PM

Attendance: Members: Scott Elrod (Chair), Rebecca Flynn (Secy), Stefan Unnasch (Vice Chair), Loverine Taylor, Jason Salah, Ronny Krashinsky

Absent: Maryann Moise Derwin (Town Council Member), Melvin Gaines (Town Asst Mgr), Walt Hays

Community: Kristi Corley, Steve Levin.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Speakers' time is limited to two minutes.

RF: Inflation Reduction Act passed with the largest climate change budget

LT: WELO meeting planned with AI Sill and Planning Dept

3. INTRODUCTIONS (including new committee members)

Stefan is stepping down from the committee, serving since 2007. Worked on Climate Action Plan, gas leaf blower ban, and back up solar battery.

Ronny Krashinsky joining committee. Computer engineer, newer resident in PV, interest in sustainability and new technologies.

4. PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Experiences with loaner induction cooktops (Judy Murphy and Lovey Taylor)
- b. Judy Murphy: Acterra program, loans, waitlists, waiver. Loaners were funded by external source. They have the bandwidth to offer this to PV with point people who can explain the unit.
- c. LT: borrowed one through the Valley Pres Church and used it in the kitchen. (California Interfaith Climate Action group PICA– Debbie Mytels and Walt Hays). 5 units obtained through Energy Efficiency group. Induction cooktop requires magnetic cookware to work. Great program to test out cooking with induction.
- d. Great for ADUs. Literature to community: should contain info about fires from natural gas.
- e. RF: has an induction cooktop and loves it, no toxic gases, heats and cools quickly. Have to take care with glass breakage, more fragile than a regular cooktop. Can use regular pots and pans with an induction platter placed on the cooktop.
- f. Can we get one to demo for picnic?

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Minutes of 7/21/2022 – added name to attendees and approved with change.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Updates from Brandi
 - i. Removing Build-It-Green ordinance and switching to Cal-Green to include solar readiness. Supporting all electric build for all new construction. Upgrading EV portion to EV ready so you can just plug in. Include some wiring in existing building when any upgrading changes to electrical panel - prewiring for HPHW heater and for AC/HP. Details to be sent out with the details to be presented to the Council. Would go into effect Jan 2023 with other building code adoption. Updates need to get approved by Cal. Energy Commission.

- ii. Climate Action Plan: Intern helping with the county consultant who finished compiling our GHG inventories from 2005-2021. Using the County's forecasting tool. Once done, will meet with the committee and community to talk about inventory and menu of measures. There will be a timeline of enacting the chosen measures. Natural gas use is the largest GHG emissions for PV. PV has little control on transportation measures. SU: Plan should make sure that PCE has renewal coincident power. JS: PCE should be getting power more local. Kristi Corley: says residents would be interested in any changes and wants more info out about details.
 - iii. Smart water meter: Cal water researching to respond to questions about interaction with Flume.
 - iv. Discussed update with Melvin on update on WELO (Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance). Brandi can offer support to Lovey and Al. Planning time is currently very impacted. WELO required by state of California.
- b. Updates from MaryAnn - none
- c. Public service announcement planning (moved to after Steve Levin's presentation).
- i. Plan for once-a-month PSA
 - ii. Second Thursday of the month (with reminder about the SC meeting). Email to PVForum, Next Door, through Town mailing. Send to Kari by Tuesday to get into the weekly Town Newsletter.
 - iii. Examples of Wildfire Preparedness Committee and Conservation committee.
 - iv. Each person decides on their topic and can get feedback from committee if desired at a prior meeting. Local action oriented.
 - v. Brandi recommends book on Community engagement. – Fostering Sustainable Behavior – Using marketing tactics for environmental engagements. Information is not enough to translate to action. You have to tap into something emotional without depressing people and provide people with solutions and personal action.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. GHG/Climate simulation opportunity, intro from Steve Levin
- i. En-Roads simulation model. Steve is a new End Roads Ambassador to give presentations on climate change. Energy Rapids Overview And Decision Support. Developed by Climate Interact and MIT. Simulation model. We are on track for the temperature to rise 3 degrees Celsius. 190,000 people have done the simulation. Levers can be chosen to show the results of making a difference and affect GHG emissions. The simulation looks at a whole system for the entire planet. Steve available to hold a public meeting at Town Center for about 2 hours.
- b. Town picnic preparations
- i. SE talked with Anita from Valley Pres to get material and staff. (URL)
 - ii. Trying out alternative milks to reduce meat/animal consumption. (ck with Valley Pres)
 - iii. EV car - RF
 - iv. Battery backup- SE and SU
 - v. Cal Water swag - RF
 - vi. Lawn and water efficiency - RF
 - vii. Induction cooktop. (and platter) – Lovey to check with Valley Pres
 - viii. Easels from the Town? for posters from Valley Pres.
 - ix. 5 emergency light bulbs to give out to first 5 who commit to climate changes.

8. NEXT MEETING AND PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS

- a. Town picnic preparations
- b. En Roads Simulation model
- c. Welo Update
- d. Vote on a new vice chair

9. ADJOURNMENT at 8:46 PM

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is September 15, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

TOWN PICNIC PREPARATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

1. All of us who can help that day will converge at the 2 tables reserved for our committee at 9:30AM on Saturday the 17th. Note that there will be road closures for the Zotts to Tots event starting at 9:30, so depending on where you're arriving from, you may need to plan to arrive at Town Center somewhat before 9:30
2. Once we've arrived for setup, we can decide how to divide up responsibility for staffing the tables. There will probably be 2 shifts, one from 10-12 and one from 12-2
3. One table will be devoted to the emphasis that VPC put on food impacts on climate change at their Earth Day event, with multiple posters.
4. The second table will include:
 - a. Induction cooktop, with poster from VPC
 - b. Backup power setup
 - c. Water conservation items
5. Also, Rebecca will bring her Nissan Leaf, which will be parked behind one of the tables.

Here are the action items I noted:

1. Bring posters and easels from VPC (Anita, Alice, Ann); include binder clips to hold things down in the event of wind
2. Get extra easels from Town (Scott to engage Brandi)
3. Make flyer with QR code announcing the electrified home tour that will take place on August 24 (Scott); Bring frame to put it in (Ann)
4. Pick up backup power unit (Scott)
5. Bring induction cooktop (Lovey with Ann)
6. Bring Nissan Leaf (Rebecca)
7. Bring water conservation items (Rebecca)

EXAMPLE “PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS”

EXAMPLE #1

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Town of Portola Valley, CA** <webmaster@portolavalley.net>

Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2022, 10:05 AM

Subject: Wildfire Preparedness Committee Tip - Right of Way Mitigation in 2022

To: [REDACTED]

Wildfire Preparedness Committee Tip - Right of Way Mitigation in 2022

Post Date: 08/09/2022 9:34 AM



Right of Way Mitigation in 2022

We often say it takes a village to accomplish something, but it takes a hard-working Public Works Department to keep a village like Portola Valley running. To better appreciate all that Public Works does for the Town, please see this [Apr-2022 slide set](#) by Public Works Director Howard Young.

In Oct-2019, Public Works initiated its plan for [fire mitigation on Town right of ways and land](#). The first 2 years targeted Alpine-Portola Roads and Westridge, resulting in safer roads and evacuation, better visibility, more resilience to ignition and fire spread, and reduced fuel load.



Beginning in Jul-2022, the Town and WFPD began tackling the right of way in stages along Golden Oak Drive, to be followed by Cervantes Road in 2023. Cul de sacs are not included at this time.

Compared to Westridge and Alpine, parcels on Golden Oak and Cervantes are smaller and houses are closer to the street. The impact may be greater. [Initial notice](#) was sent; WFPD also goes door-to-door so that residents can discuss what needs to be done. Many long-time and new residents are probably unaware that the right of way should not be used for screen planting, landscaping, or irrigation. For those who have unwittingly encroached in the right of way, or bought their homes that way, it may be disappointing to lose screening and plants.



Please remember that this project embodies the hard work of Public Works and WFPD, plus a strong commitment from Town government. It is a needed response to climate change and improves safety for all who live and work in our Portola Valley village.

Reminder: Being [Ready for Wildfire](#) is your personal responsibility! Be on [SMC Alert](#), have your Go Bag ready, know your evacuation routes, and know your [Zonehaven evacuation zone](#).

Questions about Readiness? Contact [WPV-Ready](#) or the Town's [Emergency Preparedness Committee](#)

Please subscribe to Portola Valley Town [eNotices](#) from the Wildfire Preparedness Committee!

San Mateo County Alert System [SMC Alert](#) is our primary emergency notification system. Encourage all adult members (18 and older) of your family to subscribe.

All the [Wildfire Preparedness tips](#) are on the [committee's page](#). To rate this tip or submit questions or concerns, please fill out this [Google Form](#).

EXAMPLE #2

Wildfire Preparedness Committee Tip - Wildfire and Preparedness Apps

Post Date: 08/16/2022 11:18 AM



Wildfire and Preparedness Apps

The recent Edgewood Fire alerted us of the need to stay aware of wildfires and other disasters in the area. Here is a list of apps you might want to install on your phone to track incidents:

- [Watch Duty](#) – This is a recent app, founded in Sonoma County, that puts tweets, fire maps and [CAL FIRE incident reports](#) in one place and allows you to set notifications on fire progress. In addition, you can follow CAL FIRE CZU on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

- [Smoke Point](#) – Developed by La Honda resident Gabe Schine, this app provides easy access to views from the network of [Alert Wildfire cameras](#). Users can also report smoke and help pinpoint its location.
- *Air Quality apps* – Where there is smoke, there is poor air quality. There are many apps that map AQI counts, such as [Air Quality Reader](#).
- [PV Connect](#) – Use the Town’s app to connect to the Public Works department and report new incidents or track existing ones.
- [FEMA](#) – Set this app from FEMA to notify you of major disasters, get tips to improve preparedness, and apply for FEMA assistance during disaster recovery.
- [MyShake](#) – Set this app from UC Berkeley to notify you of earthquake early warnings, get tips to improve earthquake preparedness, and report earthquakes as a citizen scientist.
- [PulsePoint](#) – you can set this app from SMC Public Safety Communications to show all first responder activity. It is useful when you hear sirens in your neighborhood.

Every SMC resident should be registered on [SMC Alert](#) to receive emergency text messages such as evacuation warnings and orders for your evacuation zone. Know your zone by looking up your address on [Zonehaven](#). Note that at the August EPC meeting, WFPD Chief Rob Lindner said to improve resident reception, he has directed his staff to look at giving periodic updates before, during, and after an event. These updates may come through multiple channels such as SMC Alert, PVForum, or direct emails.

Do you have other favorite apps? Please post recommendations via our [Google Form](#) or respond to this post on PVForum.

Please subscribe to Portola Valley Town [eNotices](#) from the Wildfire Preparedness Committee!

San Mateo County Alert System [SMC Alert](#) is our primary emergency notification system. Encourage all adult members (18 and older) of your family to subscribe.

All the [Wildfire Preparedness tips](#) are on the [committee’s page](#). To rate this tip or submit questions or concerns, please fill out this [Google Form](#).

EXAMPLE #3

From: main@pvforum.us <main@pvforum.us> **On Behalf Of** Conservation Committee

Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:53 AM

To: main@pvforum.us

Subject: [PVForum] Time to tackle Oxalis #Nature #Tip #PV



With this wet December we have had a rush of the usual weeds including *Oxalis pes-caprae* (Bermuda Buttercup or Sour grass). It is a noxious weed that spreads rapidly and is very difficult to control, but can be effectively nipped in the bud if you are persistent. They form bulb-lets very

deep in the soil that can only be effectively controlled by starving them as they are flowering, when they are most vulnerable. More information can be found in the attached flyer.

Public Service Announcement Details

- Once per month
- Each month led by one member of the committee
 - Content can be solicited from other members
- Each member will have approximately 2 months every 14 months (given that we now have 7 members)
- Distribute on 2nd Thursday of the month, including a reminder that people are welcome to join the regular Sustainability Committee meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
- Material sent to Kari Chinn for inclusion in the weekly Town newsletter. Would need to provide to Kari on the Tuesday before the Thursday when we want it to go out (Brandi confirming). Then send out a reminder about the item on PVForum on the 4th Thursday of the month, from our personal email.
- Messages on drought and energy
- First messages (given the season) on drought

Draft Schedule:

August: Drought, Rebecca

September: Drought, Lovey

October: GHG, Jay

November: GHG, Scott

December: GHG, Walt

January: GHG, Ronny

February: GHG, Jay

March: GHG, Scott

April: Drought, Rebecca

May: Drought, Lovey

June: Drought, _____

July: GHG, _____