



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety
Committee Meeting
Wednesday January 11, 2023
8:15 a.m.

Edward Holland, Chair
Angela Hay, Secretary
Patricia Baenen, Member
Gary Hanes, Member
Kevin Welch, Member

SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING
HISTORIC SCHOOLHOUSE – 765 PORTOLA ROAD - PORTOLA VALLEY, CA

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.

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/84573897955?pwd=WUJaUW1DaEpiblpEaG5wcW01Z2RZdz09>

Webinar ID: 845 7389 7955

Passcode: 316772

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 three minutes.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a. December 7, 2022
 - b. November 2, 2022 - Amendment
- 4. SHERIFF'S REPORT:**
 - a. Review of Citations
 - b. Request for Officer coverage/attention
- 5. PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:**
 - a. General update
 - b. Request for update on Tree Removal at Brookside/Portola
 - c. Request for update on Parking signage At Portola Rd in the Vicinity of Windy Hill access
- 6. ONGOING COMMITTEE BUSINESS:**
 - a. Request to the town for information on plans to review/update the Circulation Element of the General Plan.
 - b. Update From Subcommittee on Alternative Transport and Infrastructure
 - c. Discuss Committee Budget Needs for Upcoming Committee Workshop

7. EVENTS:

- a. Request for notification of and event ideas for the 2023 Calendar:
 - i. Bike to/From Work Day
 - ii. Earth Day
 - iii. Town Picnic/Zots to tots

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is February 1, 2023

The Town of Portola Valley acknowledges the colonial history of this land we dwell upon—the unceded territory of the Ramaytush (rah-my-toosh) Ohlone, Tamien Nation, and Muwekma (mah-WEK-mah) Ohlone, who endured a human and cultural genocide that included removal from their lands and their sacred relationship to the land. Portola Valley recognizes that we profit from the commodification of land seized from indigenous peoples and now bear the ecological consequences. We seek to understand the impact of these legacies on all beings and to find ways to make repair.

Minutes of the November 2022 Meeting



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Community Meeting

Wednesday 2nd November 2022

8:15 AM Online with ZOOM

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety (BPTS) Community Meeting

1 Roll Call

Ed Holland (chair) started the meeting at 8:20 am. In attendance were Ed Holland, Kevin Welch, Patt Baenen and Angela Hey. Gary Hanes apologized for absence. In addition, Howard Young (public works director) and Craig Hughes (mayor) were present. Also, Caroline Vertongen and P Taylor from the Sheriff's office joined on Zoom by phone.

2 Resident and Committee Open Comments

There were no open comments.

3 Review and Approval of the Minutes of the September 7th and October 5th 2022 Committee Meeting

Ed proposed that the minutes of the September 7th committee meeting be approved, Kevin seconded and approval by committee members was unanimous. Ed also proposed the minutes of the October 5th committee meeting be approved, Kevin seconded and they were also unanimously approved.

4 Sheriff's Report

P Taylor gave the report.

4.1 Accidents and Citations

There were no accidents reported. In September, there were 5 moving citations and 10 parking citations. Deputies are waiting for new Lidar and Radar equipment.

Accident info will be sent to Ed. Howard forwarded the info to Ed.

Ed asked whether the Sheriff's officers had stopped motorists when their headlights failed. Taylor replied that they don't write a lot of citations for that violation – they may warn motorists to replace a headlamp bulb.

5 Public Works Update

5.1 Alpine Inn Parking

Howard gave the report and said he had not heard of any major traffic issues near the Alpine Inn in the last month. On Creek Park Drive there were few cars - just one or two or zero in the afternoon and the early evening.

On Golden Oak, Westridge and Alamos – no cars there either.

5.2 Windy Hill Parking

Parking numbers seem lower in the week than earlier in the year. No concerns from residents.

5.3 Work on Arastradero

From Nov 2nd to Nov 22nd, Santa Clara is doing work on Arastradero. Howard asked that the contractors add words to their illuminated sign to say the road work is on Arastradero so drivers are not confused as the signs are located on Alpine in each direction before Arastradero.

5.4 Street Resurfacing

The town had 15 street sections resurfaced – no calls or major issues –the town spent time sending out information to affected residents beforehand. Contractors need to finish striping on Alpine and Golden Oak. Signs have been updated on some of the resurfaced streets.

5.5 Winter Preparation

Culverts are being checked and trails are being prepared for the rainy season.

5.6 Fire Mitigation

Fire mitigation on Golden Oak and Los Trancos continues.

5.7 PV Connect

Howard said it is best to use PV Connect for any concerns.

5.8 Questions

Patt asked if Portola Valley was in charge of Los Trancos. Howard said that first going up Los Trancos its Portola Valley (about 1500 ft) then Palo Alto then Portola Valley after Oak Forest Court to Blue Oaks and about 400ft above Blue Oaks is San Mateo County.

Patt asked if the clean up was more than in the past. Howard said there is a regular schedule.

Kevin asked if the redwood tree near Brookside was going to be replaced on Portola Road. Howard said there is a public notification process and is getting quotes to replace the tree.

Residents noted there is litter on Alpine Road from contractors at the school. Howard will talk to the school project manager for the site.

Angela asked about the AT&T trailer at the bottom of Westridge – asking why the town didn't just approve cabinets there rather than relocating equipment. Howard explained that the equipment would be moved for aesthetic reasons in the scenic corridor.

Kevin asked “How far from a no parking sign can people be cited for a parking violation – is it line of sight or 150ft or further?” In some cases, cars are further than 150ft from a sign. Kevin will let Howard know where in town this occurs.

5.9 Request for progress on new engineering

Howard is working on engineering, mapping and traffic surveys for the rapid flashing beacons. Ed will talk to traffic engineer Paul Krupka to review the activity.

A draft design for no parking signs has been produced. Howard has checked in with Laura Russell, town planner, , the ASCC and Cara Silver town attorney – per the municipal code there may not be a requirement for ASCC approval, but chair Dave Ross may provide an informal review.

6 Ongoing Committee Business

6.1 Update on Recommendation to Remove a Redwood Tree at Brookside on Portola Road

Conservation Committee had no problem with removing the tree as discussed at their last meeting. As it is on the corner there are concerns for safe removal. Notification of residents is the next step.

6.2 Update on Sheriff's Contract Renewal

Ed made comments at the Town Council Meeting in October – council has a subcommittee looking at the Sheriff's contract - Sarah Wernikoff and Jeff Aalfs will be reaching out to committees in the future. Current contract is a 5-year contract – used to be 3-years – may change to sync with Woodside. Craig encouraged committee members to read the contract and send comments to Craig. Agenda packet for the town council has the contract. Contract will start July 1st 2023.

Ed would like to see increased coverage at known busy times – school, weekends. He would also like more of a commitment to reporting back on citations.

A reason for a 5-year contract was to lock in pricing.

6.3 Subcommittee on Alternative Transport and Infrastructure

Patt and Angela are on the committee. They produced a list of items. They hope others in the town will be interested in specific places for improvements.

6.3.1 Intersection of Portola and Alpine Road needs to be marked for cyclists.

Policy and design for bike lanes has to be consistent – not just 50 ft at an intersection. Portola Valley provides a 5ft shoulder instead of a designated bike lane. The new striping is wider for bike lanes. Patt said there are 3 arrows needed for cyclists so they need to know where to go. Visual communication for cyclists encourages cyclists to use the proper lane practice.

Patt noted that before Zots-to-Tots a Subaru was mixed with bicycles.

6.3.2 Intersection of Portola and Alpine Road needs to be marked for cyclists.

Also at Windy Hill, cyclists need to be able to take the lane so they are not at risk of being doored by cars parking alongside Portola Road.

6.3.3 Other Items

Patt would like the list of potential topics to be on the agenda for next month.

6.4 Kevin noted there is no Safety and Security Committee

Craig said there are very few events and that the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Safety Committee has that role a little bit. Crime rate is low and there may be a chance for better reporting.

6.5 Fire Department Reporting of Accidents

Angela asked for reports from the fire department. Patt said that in training as a bike instructor half of accidents are between bikes and bikes. Craig will ask Jeremy to raise it with the Fire Chief.

7 Events

7.1 Sheriff's Workshop

Subcommittee and Jeremy are planning a public meeting related to the new sheriff and new contract and what policing means in Portola Valley. A meeting is expected to be held after the New Year.

7.2 Volunteer Holiday Party

There will be a volunteer holiday party - watch inboxes says Craig.

8 Matters Arising

8.1 Election

Craig encouraged committee members to return ballots. Rita Comes said there are 6 more days and that it is not appropriate for a committee member to ask for votes at a town public committee meeting. Craig noted that he was not advocating for a particular candidate.

8.2 EIR Report on Stanford Wedge

Kevin asked whether we have a say as a committee on the Stanford Wedge EIR report. State law states a number of public meetings – so the BPTS committee cannot review – committee members can make comments as individuals. It cannot be put on the committee's agenda.

9 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Zoom on Wednesday December 7th at 8:15 am.

10 Adjournment

Ed adjourned the meeting at 9:22 am.

Minutes of the December 2022 Meeting

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY



Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Community Meeting

Wednesday 7th December 2022

8:15 AM Online with ZOOM

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety (BPTS) Community Meeting

1 Roll Call

Ed Holland (chair) started the meeting at 8:20 am. In attendance were Ed Holland, Kevin Welch and Angela Hey. Gary Hanes apologized for absence. Patt Baenen was absent. In addition, Howard Young (public works director) and Gary Nielsen (police commissioner) were present. Residents Rita Comes, Caroline Vertongen and Kristi Corley also attended.

2 Resident and Committee Open Comments

Rita Comes asked about the proposed roundabouts at Ladera and whether the committee had looked at this proposal. She said Maryann Derwin had been working with county supervisor Don Horsley on it. Howard suggested that we look at the county website and report back next meeting. (Editor: <https://www.smcgov.org/publicworks/san-mateo-county-public-works-projects> has no current project. The past project, an Alpine Road Traffic Corridor Study, had a final report posted on 6/9/2017 <https://www.smcgov.org/publicworks/alpine-road-traffic-corridor-study>).

3 Review and Approval of the Minutes of November 2nd 2022 Committee Meeting

Ed proposed that the minutes of the November 2nd committee meeting be approved, Kevin said he would second with typo corrections. The committee unanimously approved.

4 Sheriff's Report

Ed said a report had been sent with monthly citations and an annual report. He will review it and send it to committee members. (Editor: it stated that there were 23 moving citations and 1 parking citation, giving a total of 24 total citations in October and there were no accidents reported. A report compared collisions with October 2021 when there were 2 non-injury traffic collisions – 1 on Westridge and 1 on Golden Hills.

Angela asked whether the committee gets reports of accidents on the Skyline Drive section that includes Portola Valley. Ed saw an accident on Portola Road.

Angela noted there had been speeding motorbikes in Portola Valley on weekends. For clarification, these are motorcycles, not eBikes.

5 Public Works Update

5.1 Parking

No major issues except a traffic accident report.

On Creek Park Drive, Howard has seen at most one to three cars – could be residents or guests. He also looked on Monday when the Alpine Inn was closed.

Other roads:

Golden Oak – no cars

Westridge – no cars

Rainy season means fewer hikers on trails, so fewer cars parked on Portola Road and near other trailheads.

5.2 Paving

Slurry seal and striping complete. The shoulders were rolled for cyclists. This adds cost to road maintenance.

Santa Clara County is paving Arastradero Road.

5.3 Field Renovation

Town fields are being reseeded.

5.4 Culverts, Trails and Storm Drains

The town is checking the trails and storm drains.

5.5 Litter around schools

Litter around schools has also been seen and is being removed. Howard has spoke to the building project manager about this issue.

5.6 Signage at Alpine and Portola Road for Cyclists

Howard met with Angela and Patt to look at options for signs at the Alpine and Portola Road junction for cyclists. Howard will speak with Paul Krupka about signage at the junction.

5.7 Questions

Rita asked Howard if there was a plan for repairing Westridge between Alpine and the top of Westridge given the construction. She said the road was hazardous as the surface is deteriorating because of construction vehicles. Ed agreed having cycled up and down the road. Howard is in the middle of design for repairing the road in 2023 – the last time the road was paved was a slurry seal in 2014. Howard said that if potholes need to be fixed that can be done any time.

6 Ongoing Committee Business

6.1 Removal of the Redwood Tree at Brookside and Portola Road

Howard is going to send a letter to residents who live within 300 ft of the tree and has quotes from contractors to cut the tree. The plan is to remove the tree in January. Stump grinding is also planned.

6.2 Renewal of the Sheriff's Contract

Ed asked for comments to be sent to him directly or brought up at the next meeting.

6.3 Update from Subcommittee on Design and Engineering of Recommended new pedestrian safety facilities

Howard reported on rapid flashing beacons. He reported that the crosswalks at Alpine could be moved slightly and the crosswalk near Woodside Priory could be moved 5ft. Looked at 3 alternatives. Will bring more information at the next committee meeting.

Signs on Windy Hill Parking the design phase can proceed. Signs near Stonegate may be installed later.

7 Matters Arising

Caroline Vertongen mentioned roundabouts and had other concerns.

She believes that the flashing beacons in Ladera are not useful, not reliable, cost money and pedestrians don't use them.

Trails committee has produced a new map and is looking forward to identifying safe routes to school. They say that BPTS will work with them but there is nothing on our agenda.

Why is the ASCC not going to be involved in the rapid flashing beacons? The BPTS is the forum for public outreach. She was dissatisfied with the outreach to the public and believes that outreach should go beyond BPTS meetings. She also thinks that Portola Valley has been very slow to implement improvements.

Kristi Corley would like to know when the rapid flashing beacons will be installed at Alpine and Golden Oak. Kristi asked for a date. Howard said he would like to start next summer, but there will be a time for public comment. Ed asked if there was a time limit for spending the grant. There is, and Howard believes we will not lose the grant because of the implementation schedule.

The town lacks a full circulation study on Alpine Road and arterial roads with the county. She is concerned that with plans for new building on Alpine Road and what are the plans for Alpine Road. Howard said there is no plan for a circulation study and no budget for one. Kristi noted that other municipalities are updating the circulation element of their general plan.

Are we using the license plate reader for up-to-date traffic reporting? Kristi is concerned that we may not be using traffic data we collect advantageously. Howard said the license plate reader data was not used for traffic counts. The town has done its own counts. Howard said there is an annual audit report in February.

Angela raised the impact of the Hawthorns traffic. This is something that might change traffic volumes and plans.

8 Next Meeting

Ed will request that the regular January meeting be delayed a week. It will be hybrid - at the town center and on Zoom. He expects that it will be a special meeting on Wednesday January 11th at 8:15 am.

9 Adjournment

Ed adjourned the meeting at 9:15am.