



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Open Space Acquisition
Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 2, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Terry Lee, Chair
Ticien Sassoubre, Vice Chair
Nona Chiariello, Secretary
Gary Nielson, Member
F. Ward Paine, Member
Betsy Morgenthaler, 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. 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/84220912326?pwd=cGpaQytuTThqbGNGRXAxYTg0bHNSQT09>

Webinar ID: 842 2091 2326

Passcode: 599946

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. November 15, 2022
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Open Space Brochure Mailing
 - b. Open Space Signage
 - c. Committee Website
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. Charter Subcommittee Suggestions to Update the Committee Charter
 - b. Annual Budget
 - c. Committee Vacancy
6. **ADJOURNMENT** – This body meets on an as-needed basis.

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.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:00PM
Special Videoconference meeting via Zoom

DRAFT

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 PM

- a. **Members present** – Terry Lee (chair), Nona Chiariello, Gary Nielsen, Ticien Sassoubre, Craig Taylor, Town Council member John Richards.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

- a. Gary Nielsen and the committee congratulated Craig Taylor on his election to the Town Council, and congratulated John Richards on completing many years of service.
- b. Terry noted that Howard Young has served the Town for 20 years.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. August 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Ticien made a motion that the minutes be approved; Gary seconded. The motion was approved by all except for Craig Taylor who abstained because he wasn't present at that meeting.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Charter suggests Open Space Committee not Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee.

Terry Lee led a discussion of whether the committee should be re-named. He proposed recommending to the Town Council an official change in the name of the committee to the "Open Space Committee," which would recognize the broader scope of the charter.

The discussion addressed the following topics: the history of the committee's name; the significance of the name in the context of the Open Space Fund; the scope of the committee's responsibilities; adding more committee members.

Action items:

Terry made a motion that the committee make a recommendation to the Town Council to simplify the name of the committee to Open Space Committee. Ticien seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Terry made a motion to establish a subcommittee together with community member Betsy Morgenthaler to begin reviewing the history and context of the committee name and charter in order to make an informed, modest revision of the charter to align with the current, contemporary actions of the committee. Ticien seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Betsy agreed to contribute.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Potential Regular Meeting Schedule.

Terry explained that during his tenure as chair, important issues have come up that we have scrambled to be responsive to. Because we are updating the name of the committee, and the interest of the committee is broader than acquisition, from a pragmatic scheduling matter, it would be beneficial to set a regular meeting, e.g. third Tues of every other month. Meetings would be canceled when not needed. This would make it easier for the community to have more touchpoints with the open space issues.

Action items:

Terry moved that this committee recommend to the Town Council setting a regularly scheduled meeting every other month, to be the third Tues of alternating months, starting in Jan. Ticien seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

b. Open Space Parcels Review – Conservation / Protection Options

Terry presented the idea of opening a conversation in response to committee and community requests about town-owned open space. The agenda packet included a list of town-owned parcels. Terry raised the question of whether, in addition to Ford Field, there are other parcels the committee should be playing close attention to, and whether there are issues we should proactively consider.

Terry summed up the discussion: This is an important subject of attention in the past. There may not be capacity to do a lot more at the moment, but there is alignment on the importance of this work from a conservation and protection standpoint. This is something to return to with other committees and community members.

c. Open Space Signage—Awareness, Education, and Support.

Terry introduced this topic by saying that when we name things we value them more, which suggests that discreet and appropriate signage at town-owned open spaces might increase our outreach and support.

Discussion topics: naming can be significant to perceptions; naming has not been consistent across documents (e.g., Dorothy Ford Field/Park/Open Space); some parcels have plaques, others do not. Terry acknowledged that there is some consensus on moving forward with signage, but he is not ready to recommend an action yet. Ticien left during this discussion.

Action items: The planned mailer of the Open Space Map and Brochure was already approved by the committee and budgeted for the current year, and should go ahead. Craig and Nona will move forward on this, drawing on Craig's experience in creating a town mailing.

d. Ford Field – Options to Minimize Impact of Potential Future Housing

Terry noted that this item is essentially part of agenda item 5b, hence part of a larger project.

Discussion noted the importance, again, of consistent naming and of accurate boundary surveys because acreage is significant to setback requirements.

6. ADJOURNMENT – Following a motion by Terry and a second by Craig, it was unanimously decided at 8:47PM to adjourn the meeting.

*****ECRWSEDDM****

Residential Customer

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
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SUNNYVALE, CA
PERMIT NO. 93

Spring Down Open Space



Open Space in Portola Valley

a legacy to enjoy and sustain today!

Portola Valley: A History of Open Space Preservation

Portola Valley has benefited from an enduring partnership with its residents to preserve open space, protect the environment, and retain the area’s rural character. In the early 1970’s, the Town supported the preservation of 347 acres of open space as part of the founding of the Portola Valley Ranch development and acquired Dorothy Ford Park. In 1981 the Town helped establish the Windy Hill Open Space with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. In recent years, the Town has acquired, or helped acquire, the Spring Down Open Space (2000), the Dengler Open Space (2007) and the Shady Trail parcel (2008).

How You Made It Possible

The residents of Portola Valley treasure our open spaces and invest to preserve them. Recently, the John and “J” Boice Trust made a generous donation to the Town’s Open Space Fund in their memory. Other major benefactors include the Kersten family gift of the Dengler Open Space, the Lipman family support of the Shady Trail Open Space, the Smith family support of the Spring Down Open Space, and the Lane family’s ardent support for open space throughout their lives from the very founding of Portola Valley. Funding for open space is also provided by the Town’s Open Space Fund stewarded by the Town Council and the Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee. These funds come in part from community events like the 2000 Millennium Challenge for Open Space and in part from the Utility Users Tax first approved by voters in 1997 to provide ongoing annual support.

How You Can Help

To preserve the Portola Valley we know and love, we must

continue to maintain our existing open spaces and invest in the future. Please join us in protecting, preserving, and enhancing our open spaces by considering a tax-deductible donation today or through a planned giving legacy gift for your family and your town. Send your check payable to “Portola Valley Open Space Fund” to:

Town of Portola Valley
765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA, 94028

For more information on how to contribute, visit us online at: <https://www.portolavalley.net/about/open-space-in-portola-valley>

The Open Space Fund is a Town of Portola Valley restricted fund for open space purposes only.

Shady Trail Open Space



Portola Valley's Open Spaces

Preserving the town's natural areas and pastoral lands

Spring Down Open Space

Size: 6 acres.
 Features: adjacent to Town Center; 0.3-mile loop trail around a meadow; a restored pond that attracts waterfowl and wildlife.
 Acquired through the Town's Open Space Fund.

Hayfields Private Open Space

Size: 52 acres.
 Features: redwoods, evergreen woodland, Bay views.
 Privately owned open space with agricultural and other rights reserved to the owner. An easement to the Town allows public use of a ~2-mile trail through a gift of the Targ and Kiesling families and support of Bill and Jean Lane.

Herb Dengler Open Space

Size: 11.8 acres.
 Features: shaded 1-mile loop trail through evergreen woodland, with Bay views.
 A gift of the Kersten Family.

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

Size: 1,335 acres.
 Features: 13 miles of trails; grassland ridges, lush wooded ravines, and Bay views; picnic benches near Skyline Blvd.
 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District lands.

Shady Trail Open Space

Size: 2.5 acres.
 Features: quiet, 0.8-mile Shady Trail along Westridge Creek; excellent for bird watching.
 Acquired by the Town through the generosity of Beverly and Peter Lipman, local neighbors and an Open Space Fund donation.

Dorothy Ford Park and Open Space

Size: 7.67 acres, including the baseball field.
 Features: 0.7-mile creekside trail and paved path, shaded by two magnificent Valley Oaks, used for walking, jogging, bicycling.
 Acquired by the Town and with a gift by Tom Ford in memory of his mother.

Triangle Park

Size: 0.62 acre.
 Features: lawn, picnic tables, and a bike repair station.
 Town Scenic Corridor and Greenway.

Hawthorns

Size: 78 acres (not open yet).
 Gifted to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Frog Pond Open Space

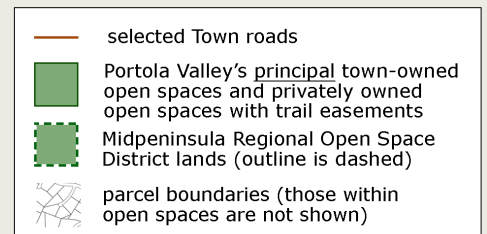
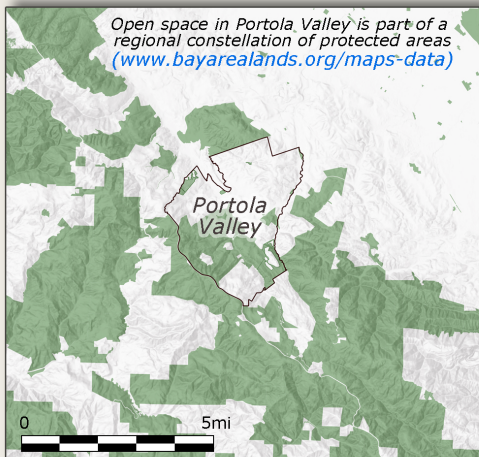
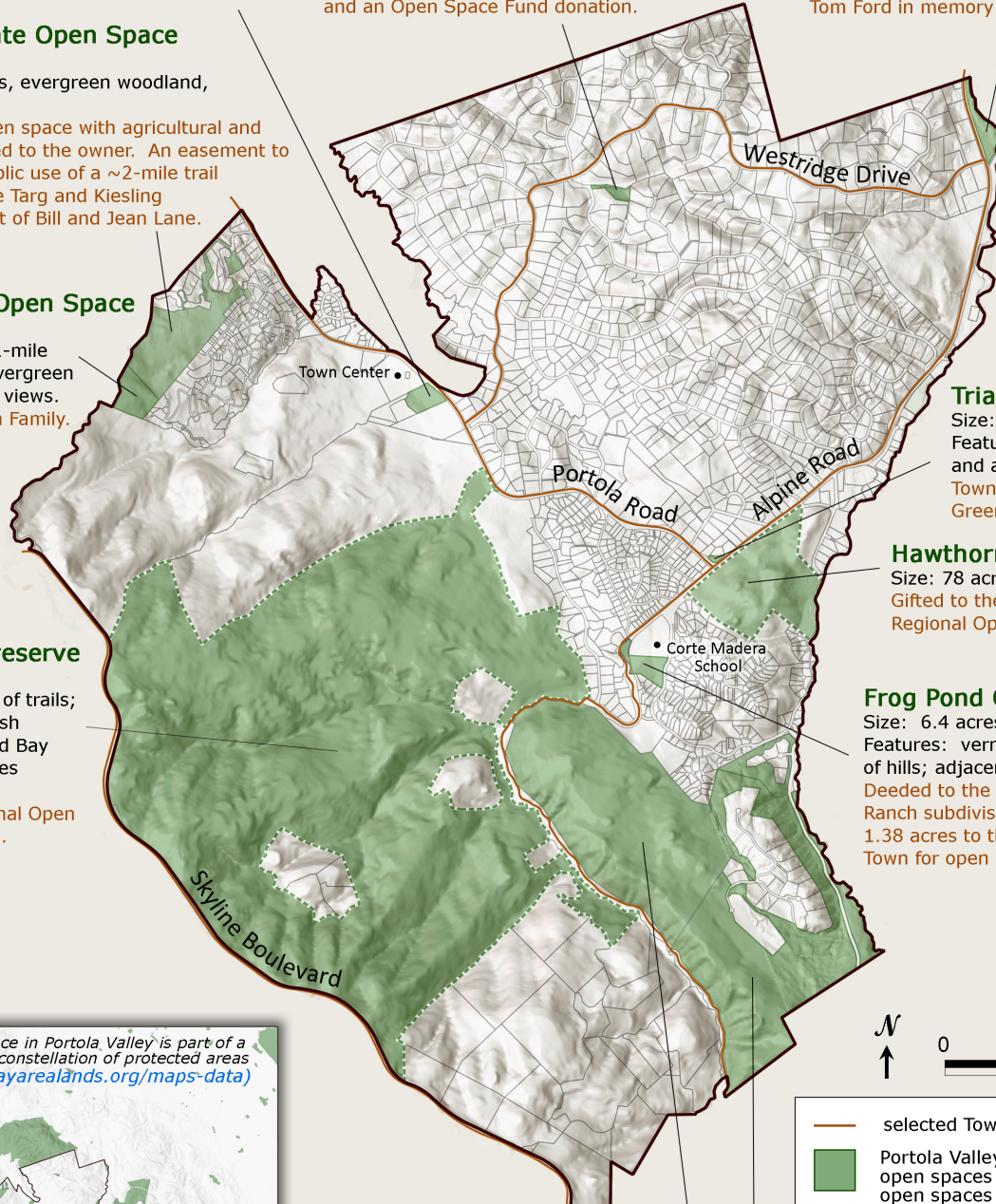
Size: 6.4 acres.
 Features: vernal pond, grassland, views of hills; adjacent to Corte Madera School.
 Deeded to the Town by the Portola Valley Ranch subdivision, and contiguous with 1.38 acres to the west designated by the Town for open space purposes.

Coal Mine Ridge Open Space

Coal Mine Ridge Nature Preserve of Portola Valley Ranch

Coal Mine Ridge Open Space of Blue Oaks

Size: 425+ acres across the two sub-units.
 Features: 10 miles of public trails with Bay views from grassy ridges; shaded walks in oak woodlands and chaparral canyons.
 Privately owned open space with easements to the Town allowing public use of trails.



The Portola Valley Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee advises the Town Council on investing monies from the open space fund into open space projects. It also supports fundraising and fosters public awareness. To learn more about open space in Portola Valley, visit: www.portolavalley.net/about-portola-valley/open-space- Page 5 of 12

**OPEN SPACE
COMMITTEE CHARTER**
4-23-08 Original

OBJECTIVES

1. Support preservation of the Town's rural environment by advising the town Council on all open space matters including analyzing mechanisms for financing and acquiring open space in the Town's locality, developing communications to foster public awareness, education, and financial support for land conservation, and serving as a liaison with local and regional open space organizations whose activities are relevant to the Town's land conservation goals.
2. Coordinate with and assist other Town committees, regional agencies, and organizations on matters related to conservation, land use, recreation, and environmental issues.
3. Develop community awareness of open space opportunities and provide a yearly source of open space funding through community events sponsored by open space events subcommittee.

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

1. Advise the Town Council on open space acquisition, open space maintenance, and related matters.
2. Provide analysis to the Town Council of mechanisms for the funding and acquisition of open space, and assist the Town in the evaluation of financing options when specific parcels or easements have been identified for acquisition.
3. Monitor local properties, and communicate with local and regional conservation agencies and organizations whose activities are relevant to the Town's open space goals.
4. Develop communications materials to foster public awareness, education, and financial support for land conservation within the Town.
5. Make recommendations to the Town Council on public financing issues for open space acquisitions, and funding for the Town's Open Space Fund.
6. Participate in the review of the General Plan, the Open Space Element, and land use ordinances relevant to open space preservation.
7. Provide a yearly source of funding for the Open Space Fund by sponsoring community fund raising events sponsored by the Open Space Events Subcommittee of the Open Space Committee.

RESPONSIBLE TO

Town Council

COORDINATION AND LIAISON

Town Planner
Town Attorney
Finance Committee
Conservation Committee
Local and Regional Open Space Agencies and Organizations
Parks and Recreation Committee

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall consist of a maximum of 7 regular voting members appointed by the Mayor with Council concurrence, and advisory members as determined appropriate by the Council appointed by the Mayor with Council concurrence. The members serve one year terms.

The Open Space Events Subcommittee shall consist of 10 members appointed by the Mayor with the concurrence of the Town Council. The Subcommittee members serve one year terms.

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Open Space Committee and the Open Space Events Subcommittee may be held separately and as needed. Meetings will be noticed, public meetings presided over by a chairperson elected by the members of the Committee (or Subcommittee), and the proceedings shall be recorded by a secretary selected by the members. One member of the Subcommittee shall be selected to serve as liaison to the Open Space Committee.

Adopted by the Town Council April 23, 2008

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE CHARTER
January 2023 Suggested Edits

OBJECTIVES

- ~~1. Support, protect, and connect the community with the Support preservation of the Town's open spaces and rural environment, by advising the Town Council on open space matters, all open space matters including analyzing mechanisms for financing and acquiring open space in the Town's locality, developing communications to foster public awareness, education, and financial support for land conservation, and serving as a liaison with local and regional open space organizations whose activities are relevant to the Town's land conservation goals.~~
- ~~2. Coordinate with and assist other Town committees, regional agencies, and organizations on matters related to conservation, land use, recreation, and environmental issues.~~
- ~~3. Develop community awareness of open space opportunities and provide a yearly source of open space funding through community events sponsored by open space events subcommittee.~~

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

- ~~1. Advise the Town Council on land acquisitions, conservation easements, and the enhancement and maintenance of open space.~~
- ~~2. Provide financial oversight for the Open Space Fund and identify sources to sustain and grow our capacity for nimble acquisition and long-term protection of open space.~~
- ~~3. Foster mutual awareness, education, and financial support for land conservation, wildlife corridors, and conservation easements in Portola Valley.~~
- 1.4. Collaborate with other Town committees and local and regional agencies, organizations, and land owners on issues common to the Town's open space conservation and land use goals. Advise the Town Council on open space acquisition, open space maintenance, and related matters.
- ~~2. Provide analysis to the Town Council of mechanisms for the funding and acquisition of open space, and assist the Town in the evaluation of financing options when specific parcels or easements have been identified for acquisition.~~
- ~~3. Monitor local properties, and communicate with local and regional conservation agencies and organizations whose activities are relevant to the Town's open space goals.~~
- ~~4. Develop communications materials to foster public awareness, education, and financial support for land conservation within the Town.~~

- ~~5. Make recommendations to the Town Council on public financing issues for open space acquisitions, and funding for the Town's Open Space Fund.~~
- ~~6.5. Participate in the r~~Participate in the review of ~~eview of~~ the General Plan and advise the Town Council on implementing policies and goals of the General Plan, the Open Space Element, and land use ordinances that reflect the values of our community and ecosystem. ~~relevant to open space preservation.~~
- ~~7. Provide a yearly source of funding for the Open Space Fund by sponsoring community fund raising events sponsored by the Open Space Events Subcommittee of the Open Space Committee.~~

RESPONSIBLE TO

Town Council

COORDINATION AND LIAISON

Town Public Works

Town Planner

Town Attorney

Town Manager

~~Finance Committee~~

Conservation Committee

Parks and Recreation Committee

Trails and Paths Committee

Finance Committee

Local and Regional Open Space Agencies and Organizations

~~— Parks and Recreation Committee~~

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~~subcommittee meetings~~) will be noticed, public ~~meetings~~ and presided over by a chairperson elected by the members of the Committee ~~(or Subcommittee)~~, and the proceedings shall be recorded by a secretary selected by the members. ~~One member of the Subcommittee shall be selected to serve as liaison to the Open Space Committee.~~

Adopted by the Town Council ~~April 23, 2008~~[to be updated].

**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
CHARTER**
January 2023 Suggested Edits Accepted

OBJECTIVES

Support, protect, and connect the community with the Town's open spaces and rural environment, advising the Town Council on open space matters.

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

1. Advise the Town Council on land acquisitions, conservation easements, and the enhancement and maintenance of open space.
2. Provide financial oversight for the Open Space Fund and identify sources to sustain and grow our capacity for nimble acquisition and long-term protection of open space.
3. Foster mutual awareness, education, and financial support for land conservation, wildlife corridors, and conservation easements in Portola Valley.
4. Collaborate with other Town committees and local and regional agencies, organizations, and land owners on issues common to the Town's open space conservation and land use goals.
5. Participate in the review of the General Plan and advise the Town Council on implementing policies and goals of the General Plan, the Open Space Element, and land use ordinances that reflect the values of our community and ecosystem.

RESPONSIBLE TO

Town Council

COORDINATION AND LIAISON

Town Public Works
Town Planner
Town Attorney
Town Manager
Conservation Committee
Parks and Recreation Committee
Trails and Paths Committee
Finance Committee
Local and Regional Open Space Agencies and Organizations

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will be noticed, public, and presided over by a chairperson elected by the members of the Committee, and the proceedings shall be recorded by a secretary selected by the members.

Adopted by the Town Council [to be updated].