



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Conservation Committee Meeting
May 23, 2023
7:00 PM

Catherine Magill, Chair
Judith Murphy, Vice Chair
Teresa Coleman, Secretary
Nona Chiariello, Member
Paul Heiple, Member
Marianne Plunder, Member
Megan Richards, Member
Dieter Walz, Member
Joerg Zimmerman, Member

REGULAR MEETING

HISTORIC SCHOOLHOUSE– 775 PORTOLA RD. – PORTOLA VALLEY, CA

REMOTE MEETING ADVISORY: On March 1, 2023, all committees in Portola Valley will return to conducting in-person meetings. A Zoom link will be provided for members of the public to participate remotely; however, the Town cannot guarantee there will be no technical issues with the software during the meeting. For best public participation results, attending the meeting in-person is advised.

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 towncenter@portolavalley.net. 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/86751560049?pwd=VkYwUEhaUUVLWHFIL2laSHYrSUV0dz09>

Meeting ID: 867 5156 0049

Passcode: 279844

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. April 25, 2023
- 4. SITE PERMITS:**
 - a. 880 Westridge
 - b. 501 Wayside Rd. – revised landscape plan
- 5. TREE PERMITS:**
 - a. 8 Ohlone – 2 Coast Live Oak
- 6. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Oversight of Town-owned properties - Updates (Committee)
 - i. Frog pond (Zimmerman)
 - ii. Springdown (Murphy),
 - iii. Town Center (Richards)
 - b. Committee / Town Cooperation
 - i. Public Works (Magill)
 - ii. WFPD / Town – Discuss CC guidance on Fire-prevention regulations, regarding habitat
 1. Discuss guidance on islands of vegetation/understory providing wildlife habitats to keep predators away from the house
 2. Discuss guidance on what to do with felled sudden oak trees
 - iii. Open Space Committee (Chiariello)
 - iv. Wildfire Preparedness Committee (Chiariello)

- v. Trails and Paths (Coleman)
- c. CC Routine Town Communications
 - i. Kudos (Plunder)
 - ii. Tip of the Month (Magill)
 - iii. What's Blooming Now? (Magill)
 - iv. Backyard Habitat
- d. Consolidated plants lists – final discussion of new Town Approved Plant List (Richards)

7. New Business

- a. Review Conservation Committee Charter:

The goal of the Conservation Committee is to conserve the rural quality of Portola Valley and to maintain the Town as an attractive, tranquil, family-oriented residential community for all generations, compatible with the many physical constraints and natural features of the area. The committee does this by promoting programs to enhance the environment through protection of native habitat and by helping to ensure that all land development respects and preserves the natural condition of the area. (from Conservation Committee webpage 'About' section)

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is June 27, 2023, 7:00 PM.

Land Acknowledgement:

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
Conservation Committee Meeting
April 25, 2023
7:00 PM
In-person Meeting

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM

Roll Call:

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

Also present: M. Hufty (Town Councilmember liaison)

Guests (via zoom): S. Gilbert, K. Guiliacci (WFPD), D. Bullard (WFPD) (joined at 7:53 pm)

Guests (in-person): C. Taylor, M. Jack, R. Jack

2. Oral Communications:

M. Plunder noted recent conversations on PV Forum relating to community concern over recent nearby coyote sightings and suggested this topic be included on a future agenda for Committee discussion.

3. Discussion with WFPD

Kim Guiliacci (Woodside Fire) talked about draft Ordinances 23-03 and 23-04 (current copies of the ordinances were not provided to the Committee in advance of the meeting; Ms. Guiliacci shared her screen via zoom and highlighted specific section of interest). Ms. Guiliacci was asked what was the timeline for the Committee to provide feedback on the ordinances and responded comments were needed within the next week (by approximately May 1st). She stated one the drafts are approved by the attorneys, they will then go to the Fire Protection District Board meeting and then will be available for public comment for 30 days. Ms. Guiliacci agreed to provide the pertinent sections of the draft ordonnances to C. Magill for distribution to the Committee. D. Bullard joined the meeting via zoom at 7:53 pm and stated the timeline for the adoption of the ordinances by the Town will ideally be by the end of July.

C. Taylor commented that someone needed to check in with the Sequoias and was told WFD is working with them and addressing confusion over what is being required by the new ordinances. M. Jack asked how can this information be spread to Town residents.

Action item: N. Chiariello will take the lead to collate the subcommittee comments and provide to WFPD.

4. Approval of Minutes for March 28, 2023: The minutes were *approved unanimously*

5. Site Permits

- a. 228 Westridge – updated/new plans have been submitted and J. Murphy has been included in the to-be-scheduled meeting.
- b. 880 Westridge – New plans have been received for review. J. Murphy requested the prior subcommittee (Heiple, Plunder, Walz, Coleman) review the new plans. This property is the subject of a Conservation Easement; these easements are supposed to be reviewed annually (previously reviewed by Open Space). J. Murphy suggested Conservation and Open Space collaborate on annual review of Conservation Easements. M. Hufty suggested this activity be included in the Committee Charter. M. Plunder asked to have the Committee Charter put on a future agenda. N. Chiariello agreed to bring up the issue with Open Space and to update the Committee at the May meeting.

Action Item: Have review of Conservation Committee charter included on a future committee meeting agenda

6. Tree Permits

5050 Alpine - completed

7. Old Business

- a. Oversight of Town-owned properties
 - i. Frog Pond – J. Zimmermann stated a work day will be scheduled for the Frog Pond in advance of the September chipper day.
 - ii. Springdown – J. Murphy stated Go Native will be working at Springdown this week. She asked if a webcam for Springdown to capture wildlife activity actually makes sense (what is the objective for a camera?). This proposal was tabled for later consideration.
 - iii. Town Center – M. Richards stated she has been trying to get a meeting with Go Native to determine what maintenance they are performing routinely. J. Murphy suggested that certain paths through the various beds might need to be graveled as the paths are currently being randomly trampled.
- b. Budget requests for upcoming fiscal year – the Committee *approved the addition of hiring of an intern to research Conservation Easements (\$2000) to the 2024 budget proposal unanimously.*
- c. Committee/Town Cooperation
 - i. Wildlife Prep Fair – there were approximately 350 attendees at this successful event.
 - ii. Public Works – C. Magill forwarded the trail maintenance and town center requests to H. Young. H. Young will be asked to attend a future Committee meeting (possibly via zoom).
 - iii. Open Space – will be meeting in May (no update)
 - iv. Wild Fire Preparedness – no additional update
 - vi. Trails and Paths – no update
- d. CC Routine Town Communications
 - i. Kudos (M. Plunder) – none
 - ii. Backyard habitat (M. Plunder) – no update
 - iii. Tip of the Month (C. Magill) – oak moth

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT**
April 25, 2023

iv. What's Blooming Now? (C. Magill) – later spring wildflowers

e. Consolidated Plant Lists – ready for final edits

Adjournment: 8:58 pm

Date & Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday May 23, 2023 at 7:00 pm