



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Geologic Safety Committee Meeting
June 12, 2023
10:00 AM

Chet Wrucke, Chair
Nan Shostak, Vice Chair
Patricia McCrory, Secretary
Gary Ernst, Member

IN-PERSON MEETING

HISTORIC SCHOOLHOUSE– 765 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/84231419369?pwd=MHEvbGdXRzJnSzNOdWw2ZnNwS3FDZz09>

Webinar ID: 842 3141 9369

Passcode: 916278

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. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

(statement at bottom of agendas)

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 4/10/2023 MEETING

5. OLD BUSINESS—None

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Proposed Budget to implement FY23-24 work plan
- b. Reports on other committee meetings attended
- c. Members' suggestions for topics for next GSC meeting

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is July 10, 2023.

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.

SPECIAL GEOLOGIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
10 April 2023

[Meeting was not recorded nor available via Zoom owing to lack of internet]

Meeting location: Council Chambers in the Old Schoolhouse.

Committee Members present:

Chester Wrucke [chair]
Gary Ernst
Patricia McCrory
Nan Shostak [co-chair]
Robert Wrucke

Town Staff present:

Mary Hufty [council liaison]

Also present [at various times during the meeting]:

Steve Ingebritsen
Rita Comes
Kristi Corely

Purpose of Meeting:

The committee met to review a series of suggested additions and revisions to the Committee's Charter and to discuss draft Work Plans for 2023 and beyond.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL 1020

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 3/13/2023 MEETING

Committee members voted to accept March minutes without changes.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Committee Charter

- Bob and Chet begin by summarizing the evolution of the GSC which started as an Ad Hoc committee. The first charter was established in 1989 and revised in 2000.
- Committee seeks to update current charter, both to increase its size from 5 to 7 members and to establish a legal authority under Duties and Functions to review Town geologic maps and advise the town on geologic and earthquake readiness issues.
- Committee seeks to include relevant Town committees under Liaison and Coordination, specifically, the Wildfire Preparedness and Emergency Preparedness Committees.
- Nan offers to revise draft charter per discussion to include other safety committees under Liaison and Coordination element.

- Brief discussion about start time for meetings going forward. Consensus was 10 AM.

b. Committee's Work Plan for FY 23-24

- Bob described draft work plan for 2023 and its alignment with Town's stated priorities and opened for discussion.
- Pat asked for estimates of time required for each work item.
- Nan emphasized the need to start the Education charge under the committee's charter and requested a node be established on the Town's website. Nan requested coordination with Town's Geologist on determining the locations of fault-road crossings. She also requested a clear definition of the process to update geologic maps, up to and including approval by Town Council.
- Bob noted that communication between the Town's Geologist and the committee is poor. Mary Hufty indicated that she has asked Laura Russell to request the Town's Geologist attend the GSC meetings. Rita Comes noted that the communication issue may stem in part from the need to implement a purchase order thus a budget for the Town's Geologist to participate in meetings.

Committee shifts to discussion of how to prioritize stated work goals:

- Nan requested access to ArcGIS 10.2 (on older version) to utilize FEMA's HAZUS program.
- Nan suggested that item B (Evacuation planning for cascading hazards) is high priority.
- Gary noted that degree of new geologic or geotechnical investigation depends on defining where geologic risk exists. Thus item C (Local geology and seismic hazards page for Town website) & item D (New research on geologic hazards) are lower priority; and item B should follow item A (Hazard and risk analyses cascading hazards).
- Bob requests instruction on how to prepare a proposal to Town Council for permission to undertake new work. He is reluctant to commit to a time frame for completing new geologic studies.
- Pat mentioned that she had asked the Alpine Swim & Tennis club for the trench report associated with the recent remodel—given the fault exposed in the trench, and noted that the town should also have copy.
- Nan asked is we are ready to start item E (Map the road crossings with all known faults). Bob agreed that this task is a high priority and a first step.
- Committee noted that item H (Research the methods in use to protect infrastructure) is independent of items E - G. Bob noted that location of gas lines is restricted, but the town does need a map of where gas & water shut-off valves are located.
- Kristi Corley noted how the Town of Woodside is handling their infrastructure EIR. Nan offered to contact Woodside for more information.
- Mary indicated that the committee should communicate these issues to the Acting Town Manager. Rita explained that Westridge residents have been taught how to turn off their gas & water, and also mentioned that AT&T had apparently installed cut-off valves at Ford Field. Rita and Pat reemphasized the need for coordination between the utility companies and the town.

- Gary suggested that items I (Revise map update process) and J (Scan older geotechnical/geologic data) be assigned High priority. Nan noted that first step is approval of the updated Safety Element.
- Mary summarized our request to the Town Council for Town's Geologist to attend GSC meetings which would require a budget item to cover billable hours. At 1133 Bob offers a motion to approve which is seconded and approved.
- Mary noted that the Public Works Committee should be the Liaison and Coordination element of the GSC Charter.

c. Status report of the Trenching and Geotechnical Reports subcommittee.

- Bob notes that research proposed under item D can be conducted independently then submitted to the town & GSC for review; reluctant to specify a time frame.

d. Approve recommendations for the Committee Charter

- Gary offers a motion to approve charter as discussed, which is seconded and approved by committee.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- Kristi suggested storm drain update more often than every 5 years. She noted that San Mateo County has a \$550K budget for implementing safety element items.
- Rita noted that the county supervisor provides funds for safety upgrades to Los Trancos and Half Moon Bay (contact is Ray Mueller). She also mentioned that Ladera had sent a letter to Stanford regarding the recent death from a falling tree on Alpine Road and Stanford's need to address this safety issue. Stanford is removing some of the eucalyptus trees close to Hwy 280.
- Steve Ingebritsen noted that Woodside Elementary School had spend \$1M to harden the adjacent stream which was removed by flood water during the past rainy season. Discussion followed about the need to walk the creeks in town and tie with neighboring towns; to catalog the location of eucalyptus trees near trails—tasks under the purview of the Public Works Committee.
- Rita noted the lack of internet during the meeting likely triggered by the power outage the night before and the need for better surge protection. She also noted the need for more responsive IT support during scheduled committee meetings.

6. ADJOURNMENT The next regularly scheduled meeting date is 5/8/2023 at 10:00 AM

Concluding Comments:

Chairman Chester Wrucke adjourns the meeting at 1158.

Submitted 18 May 2023.

Pat McCrory, Secretary

Portola Valley Geologic Safety Committee—Work Plan for FY23-24

Geologic Safety Committee—FY 23-24 Work Plan

1. Safety

- a. Research and report on the active seismic hazards from 1906 and other geologic hazards in and near Town
- b. Recognize cascading hazards
 - i. Hazard and risk analyses
 - ii. Evacuation planning (work with the other safety committees)
- c. Earthquake preparedness and education program
 - i. Write a web page for residents on Town’s website on the local geology and geologic and seismic hazards

2. Resiliency—Resiliency of infrastructure (roads and utilities) to preserve the functioning of critical utilities and roads during and after a geologic hazard event

- a. Map the road crossings with all known faults for the benefit of the Town and the utilities
- b. Meet with the other safety committees, Town Staff, and utility companies
- c. Define long-term goals for resiliency
- d. Research the methods in use to protect utility lines and roads from earthquakes and landslides

3. Long-Term Planning and Projects (projects continuing after FY23-24)

- a. Resiliency of infrastructure (2.)
- b. Cascading hazards (1.b.)
- c. Maintain and update the earthquake preparedness and education page on Town website (1.c.i.)
- d. Continuing research on geologic hazards in and near Town (1.a.)

4. Accountable and Transparent Governance

- a. Revise the geologic map update process to be public and transparent, and have the new process approved (transparency)
- b. Scan older, hard-copy geotechnical/geologic data and reports to be readily and publicly accessible (accountability, transparency)

Town Council’s Stated FY23-24 Priorities

Safety

- Emergency Preparedness
 - § e.g. Evacuation Planning
- Emergency Response
 - § e.g. Coordinating First Responders
- Assessment and Mitigation of Hazard and Risk
- Public Safety (Crime)
- Community Preparedness and Awareness

Sustainable and Resilient Town

- Promoting Sustainability
- Land Use
- § e.g. Planning Affordable Housing
- Protecting and Enhancing Environmental Resources
- Post-Adoption Housing Element Process

Forward Thinking Planning

- Long-Term Revenue Needs
- Long-Term Revenue Sources
- Town Center Master Plan
- Monitoring Infrastructure
- General Plan Update

Fiscal Responsibility and Accountable Governance

- Timely Fiscal Auditing and Reporting
- Operational Efficiencies
- Transparency
- Community Engagement/Communications

**Portola Valley Geologic Safety Committee
Proposed Budget for FY23-24**

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Item from Work Plan</u>	<u>Specific Use for Funds</u>
\$ 250	2.d.	Honorarium for planned speaker. Proposed topic: Planning and retrofitting infrastructure (roads and utilities) to resist damage from geologic hazard events. Public encouraged to attend.
250	4.a.	Honorarium for planned speaker. Proposed topic: The varying roles of consulting engineering geologists. Public encouraged to attend.
3,000	4.a.	Committee consultations with Town’s Consulting Geologist—one hour/month (est. 12 hours)
400	4.b.	Scan to PDF the large-format pages in hard-copy geotechnical and geologic reports (est. 30 pages)
----- \$3,900		----- Total for FY23-24

Note: The Geologic Safety Committee has never before asked the Town for funding. The \$3,000 item for time with the Town’s Consulting Geologist is based on an estimated hourly rate of \$250 and the assumption that the requested hours for his time would be outside of the Town’s contract with Cotton, Shires and Associates. The Committee does not have a copy of the contract and does not know whether its request for hours of his time would be billable.

Relevant Sections of the Work Plan

- 2.d. Resiliency of infrastructure (roads and utilities) to preserve the functioning of critical utilities and roads during and after a geologic hazard event. Research the methods in use to protect utility lines and roads from earthquakes and landslides
- 4.a. Revise the geologic map update process to be public and transparent, and have the new process approved (transparency)
- 4.b. Scan older, hard-copy geotechnical/geologic data and reports to be readily and publicly accessible (accountability, transparency)