TOWN of PORTOLA VALLEY

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10/11/23

## TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Glossary:

BPTS: Bicycle, Pedestrian, Traffic Safety Committee

Midpen: Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space

SRTS: Safe Routes to Schools

TC: Portola Valley Town Council

T&PC: Trails and Paths Committee

WFPD: Woodside Fire Protection District

RECORDING OF MEETING HERE: https://youtu.be/ZfGqMtPIqWE

**1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 by Chair Fred Leach
2. Roll Call

| **Member** | **Attending in Person** | **Attending via Zoom** | **Absent** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fred Leach, Chair** | ✓ |  |  |
| **Gary Hanning, Vice Chair** | ✓ |  |  |
| **Liz Babb, Secretary** | ✓ |  |  |
| **Joe Coleman** | ✓ |  |  |
| **Jacquelyn Davis** | ✓ |  |  |
| **Alex Doherty** | ✓ |  |  |
| **Barb Eckstein** |  |  | ✓ |
| **Ellie Ferrari** | ✓ |  |  |
| **Susan Gold** | ✓ |  |  |

* 1. Also present: H. Young, Public Works Director; J. Hasko (Town Council Liaison),

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

1. C. Vertongen – would like update on SRTS and other trail activity.

**3. HAWTHORNS TRAIL PROPOSAL**

a. Alpine Trail suggestions relative to Hawthorns

* Make multi use.
* Widen
* Move away from road
* Install horse fences/split rail fence in steepest areas to protect horses and bikers from falling into road
* Remove chainlink fence or move it back further onto Hawthorn property
* Would prefer trail to be available after sunrise/sunset hours
* Could do two trails, i.e.keep the current Alpine trail that is within the easement but encourage Hawthorn to also create a multi-use trail on Hawthorn property.
* Would altering the trail but staying within the trail easement currently, speed up the process?
* Drive way needs to be improved so trail is completely safe
* Potentially could also create a bike lane on shoulder of road removing dirt etc and then have pedestrian/equestrian trail inwards
* Potentially encourage Mid-Pen to use a natural surface on trails and not a hardened surface.
* Potentially request Mid-Pen to provide areas for dogs off-leash.  Mid-Pen has a dog off-leash area in their Pulgas Ridge location. Although opening the preserve to dogs will attract many people.

b. Connections

* Golden opportunity to connect Portola Valley trail system with other trail systems. Connections strongly contemplated in Trails and Paths element of General Plan

c.Trails general / New trails

* MidPen approval of trails being on our SRTS map? (Note they approved their trails being on our public map version - I have the email)
* Careful consideration should be given to impact of Hawthorn trails on Portola Valley trail system. For example, drainage
* Should review Trails and Paths element to determine if there were trails that it contemplated within Hawthorns. For example, Sweet Springs. Could be replaced potentially by a trail in Hawthorns?
* Los Trancos connector to Coal Mine Ridge. Opportunity to make something happen here. Would improve safety and actually invite fewer cars because you would have a big loop.

1. Parking

* Trails and Paths element of General Plan does not contemplate parking at Portola Valley trail heads and we do not want it.
* Encourage more connections to the trails system which reduces parking.
* Parking in the Hawthorns should be regulated i.e. consideration given to handicapped, reservations etc.) and place a limit on cars in general.
* Also, cars entering the current driveway on Alpine Road will compromise Safe Routes to School kids as they cross that driveway.

1. The Committee suggested forming a sub-committee to consider and note all these options for presentation to MROSD.

* Fred Leach made a motion to form a committee, Gary Hanning seconded and all were in agreement.  Fred Leach offered to chair the committee, Jacqueline Davis, Alex Doherty and Gary Hanning offered to serve.

1. Howard Young said that an old memo was submitted to Mid-Pen in 2014, encapsulating the town's requests such as removing the cyclone fence, requesting an easement, a natural trail surface and moving the trail in towards the Hawthorn property.  It was approved by the Trails Committee.

* H. Young will be sending this memo to the Committee for review.

E. Unamimous adjournment at 10:30

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