



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Conservation Committee Meeting
March 26, 2024
7:00 PM

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

REGULAR 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:

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87321185355?pwd=o5zwuu6HBFmQcTvtz9ifadYm7pufUp.1>

Meet ID: 87321185355

Passcode: 173662

To access the meeting by phone:

1-669-900-6833 or 1-888-788-0099 (toll free)

- 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. February 27, 2024
- 4. SITE PERMITS:**
 - a. 140 Solana
 - b. 242 Corte Madera
- 5. TREE PERMITS:**
 - a. 1 Bayberry
 - b. 163 Brookside
- 6. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Oversight of Town-owned properties - Updates (Committee)
 - i. Town Center (Richards)
 - ii. Springdown (Magill)
 - iii. Frog Pond (Zimmerman)

- b. Open space maintenance budget (Magill)
- c. Committee / Town Cooperation
 - i. Public Works (Magill)
 - ii. Broom Pull – Outcomes (Magill)
 - 1. Tentative date for next year: March 2, 2025
 - 2. Discuss design and order new banner
 - 3. Identification of sites for next year
 - iii. Advice to the ASCC on *Dittrichia* - Review edited language (Plunder)
 - iv. Trails and Paths (Coleman)
 - v. Defensible Space (Chiariello)
 - vi. Wildfire Preparedness (Chiariello)
 - vii. Open Space Committee (Chiariello)
- d. Website (Plunder)
- e. Fencing Guidelines / Wildlife corridors (Plunder)
- f. Hawthorn’s – discuss results of on-site meeting to be held 3/24/24 (Magill)
- g. CC Routine Town Communications
 - i. Kudos (Plunder)
 - ii. Backyard Habitat (Plunder)
 - iii. Tip of the Month (Magill)
 - iv. What’s Blooming Now? (Magill)

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is April 23, 2024, 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
February 27, 2024
7:00 PM
In-person Meeting**

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

Roll Call:

Members present: T. Coleman, N. Freire, M. Plunder, C. Magill, M. Richards,
D. Walz, J. Zimmermann , N. Chiariello (via zoom)

Member absent: J. Murphy

Also present: M. Hufty (Town Councilmember liaison)

Guests: C. Simmons

2. Oral Communications:

C. Magill stated C. Dremann had sent a note/reminder about mowing of weeds.

M. Plunder gave a brief update on the website update. She stated she has been working with Kari and is still looking at updates to official documents such as the design guidelines. In addition, she has been working on the fencing guidelines (update to be given at the March meeting).

3. Approval of Minutes for November 28, 2023: The minutes were *approved unanimously* (N. Chiariello abstained).

4. Election of officers for 2024

Chair – C. Magill (*approved unanimously*)

Vice Chair – J. Murphy (*approved unanimously*)

Secretary – T. Coleman (*approved unanimously*)

5. Site Permits

- a. 440 Cervantes - site visit has been conducted; visit report in progress
- b. 242 Corte Madera – site visit scheduled.

6. Tree Permits

- a. 20 Toro – visit conducted; report in progress
- b. 145 La Sandra – scheduling of site visit in process
- c. 1 Bayberry – initial site visit conducted; revisit with D. Walz to be scheduled

7. Old Business

a. Oversight of Town-owned properties

- i. Town Center – the subcommittee will perform a site walk-around.
- ii. Springdown – site walk around was conducted. Initial mowing (at six inches) will be done within the next few weeks to help with fire mitigation. Bristly oxtongue was noted during the walk around. C. Magill stated she has been informed the contract with Go Native is not being renewed this year (budget cut?). M. Plunder suggested C. Magill meet with H. Young to discuss the budget for FY 2024.
- iii. Frog Pond – J. Zimmerman stated the remaining budget needs to be determined (for mowing and other previously noted items). He also stated numerous off leash dogs have been observed running around the frog pond recently.
M. Richards suggested the meeting with H. Young should involve all three town-owned properties subcommittees.

Action Item: M. Hufty will look into the remaining budget and available moneys from the Town.

b. Committee/Town Cooperation

- i. Public Works (discussed above)
- ii. Broom Pull – scheduled for Sunday March 3rd at 9:00. M. Richards suggested the reminder communication to the Town emphasize broom removal is key for fire risk mitigation. C. Magill will post a reminder notice on the PV Forum.
- iii. Update on advice to ASCC on adding dittrichia removal to condition of approval –proposed language to be reviewed at the March meeting
- iv. Defensible Space draft ordinances – N. Chiariello stated the proposed ordinance on defensible space (24-01) is being reviewed tonight and that the clean and red-lined document versions are posted. M. Richards and N. Chiariello met with K. Giuliacci on February 12th to review the proposed edits from the Conservation subcommittee. Key points of discussion included:
 - 1. Photos to exemplify Zone 0 (0 – 5 feet from structures) to be requested from the Community.
 - 2. Zone 0 definitions – the best is nothing or no vegetation in Zone 0 but there are exceptions for herbaceous plants such as irrigated, non-woody plants (“approved vegetation”). This has not been completed nor approved by K. Giuliacci
 - 3. Trees – can be included in Zone 0 if only the trunk is near the structure and any foliage is 10 feet or more above the roof.
- v. Trails and Paths – meeting was postponed (no update)
- c. Plant List and gallery – the old partial plant list with photos is now featured as a gallery on the website. M. Richards state the low fire hazard plant list is still included on the website. This list was incorporated into the revised plant list so will be removed (links to be updated).
- d. CC Routine Town Communications
 - i. Kudos (M. Plunder) – none
 - ii. Backyard habitat – (M. Plunder) no update
 - iii. Tip of the Month (C. Magill) –oxalis removal; thistles

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2024

iv. What's Blooming Now? (C. Magill) – trillium, milk maids, sun cups

8. New Business

a. Hawthorns access and parking

The Committee reviewed the access and parking proposals provided by Mid-Pen. Options 4 and 8 were the preferred choices.

Adjournment: 8:25 pm

Date & Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday March 26, 2024 at 7:00 pm