



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Conservation Committee Meeting
May 28, 2024
7:00 PM

Catherine Magill, Chair
Judith Murphy, Vice Chair
Teresa Coleman, Secretary
Nona Chiariello, Member
Nancy Freire, 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/88137965380?pwd=HJrSuT68bCrSeBxyUyncd2t7xiiLQ.1>

Meet ID: **881 3796 5380**

Passcode: **991777**

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. April 23, 2024
- 4. SITE PERMITS:**
 - a. 16 Buck Meadow
- 5. TREE PERMITS:**
 - a. 1265 Westridge
- 6. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Oversight of Town-owned properties - Updates (Committee)
 - i. Town Center (Richards)
 - ii. Springdown (Magill)
 - iii. Frog Pond (Zimmerman)

- b. Committee / Town Cooperation
 - i. Public Works (Magill)
 - ii. Discussion of revised budgeting process for 2024-25 (Magill)
 - iii. Trails and Paths (Coleman)
 - iv. Defensible Space (Chiariello)
 - v. Wildfire Preparedness (Chiariello)
 - vi. Open Space Committee (Chiariello)
 - vii. Advice to the ASCC on *Dittrichia* - Review edited language (Plunder)
- c. Hawthorn's
- d. Website (Plunder)
- e. Fencing Guidelines / Wildlife corridors (Plunder)
- f. CC Routine Town Communications
 - i. Kudos (Plunder)
 - ii. Backyard Habitat (Plunder)
 - iii. Tip of the Month (Magill)
 - iv. What's Blooming Now? (Magill)

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion of proposal to use the Open Space fund to address the Town's budget shortfall and to divert the 2% UUT to the Town general fund

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is June 25, 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
April 23, 2024
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: T. Coleman, N. Freire, C. Magill, M. Richards, J. Zimmermann, N. Chiariello

Members absent: M. Plunder, J. Murphy, D. Walz

Also present: M. Hufty (Town Councilmember liaison)

Guests (via zoom): D. Cardinal, C. Vertongen, K. Giuliacci

2. Oral Communications:

C. Vertongen asked if Conservation is still a Brown Act committee (answer: yes). She asked if Conservation is working with Trails and ASCC as joint committees for the review of new projects. C. Magill stated this had been proposed at one time but nothing has moved forward. C. Vertongen was requested to send an email to C. Magill clarifying her question.

3. Approval of Minutes for March 26, 2024: The minutes were *approved unanimously with one clarification/correction.*

4. Site Permits

a. 127 Pinon - complete; report submitted. N. Chiariello suggested Conservation may want to specifically look for the presence of dittrichia during site visits, call out if present as both an invasive and a fire danger, and possibly request an additional site inspection a year after the final permit inspection to ensure dittrichia has been removed (add to the existing site visit boilerplate).

b. 302 Portola Road (Priory) – site visit complete; report submitted.

5. Tree Permits

none

6. Old Business

a. Oversight of Town-owned properties

- i. Town Center – Weeds have become prolific. M. Richards asked when the subcommittee leads will be able to meet with H. Young to go over the budget and prioritize next steps and projects.
- ii. Springdown – Mowing has not yet occurred (weather and equipment issue). A group of volunteers from the community met and pulled Bristly oxtongue.
- iii. Frog Pond – J. Zimmermann stated the remaining budget still needs to be determined for mowing and other previously noted items (waiting for feedback from H. Young).

Action Item: C. Magill stated she will arrange a time for the three Town-owned properties subcommittee leads to meet with H. Young to discuss the budget.

b. Open Space maintenance budget – The Committee will be updated after the meeting with H. Young occurs (subcommittee needs to have an idea of the budget before prioritization of projects can occur).

c. Committee/Town Cooperation

- i. Public Works (maintenance budget concerns discussed above)
- ii. Advice to ASCC on adding dittrichia removal to condition of approval – review of proposed language postponed to May meeting
- iii. Trails and Paths – meeting postponed until April 24th.
- iv. Defensible Space draft ordinances and v. Wildfire Preparedness – N. Chiariello, M. Plunder and M. Richards met to discuss how the subcommittee can provide language and guidance to Fire Marshal Giuliacci for the draft ordinances K. Giuliacci thanked the Committee for input and stated the Fire Department had not previously sought such input from committees. She stated the final guidance will go to the Fire Board at their May 28th meeting.
- vi.– Open Space – have not met

d. Hawthorns – no update

e. Website – to be updated at May meeting

f. Fencing Guidelines/Wildlife corridors – to be updated at May meeting

g. CC Routine Town Communications

i. Kudos (M. Plunder) – deferred to next meeting

ii. Backyard habitat – (M. Plunder) deferred to next meeting

iii. Tip of the Month (C. Magill) – mowing/weed removal, pruning; consideration of nesting birds in trees and on the ground

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

Adjournment: 7:45 pm

Date & Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday May 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm