

MINUTES CONSERVATION COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

Present: Bourne, Chiariello, DeStaebler, Eastman, Eckstrom, Heiple, Murphy, Plunder,

Absent: Walz

Also present: Town Council Liaison, Richards; Jeff Nuttall, PV resident and BYH Awardee

- 1) Meeting called to Order at 7:30
- 2) Oral Communications
 - a. Danna Breen expressed her thanks for Heiple and Walz' valuable input at ASCC meetings re 177 Goya.
 - b. A revised plant list is being prepared by PV Ranch. After their Board approves, it will come to us, ASCC and Planning. This will be a good opportunity to look at possible revisions of our own plant list.
 - c. The explosion of Dittrichia in town has concentrations in some paddocks. Murphy communicated with local horseperson Mary Hufty and she will send an alert and information on Dittrichia to her equestrian email group.
 - d. Plunder contacted local fire department and they will be sending to all residents their excellent brochure on defensible space.
 - e. Chiariello reports that Open Space committee will be doing required oversight with the Chaputs about their Conservation Easement.
 - f. deStaebler announces Hidden Villa Native Plant Sale 10/17
- 3) Minutes of August 25. *ACTION: Unanimously approved with one abstention (Bourne for Absence) with one spelling correction.*
- 4) Site Permits
 - a. 30 Zapata. *ACTION: need to see site to properly frame report. deStaebler will arrange site visit and write report.*
- 5) Old Business
 - a. BackYard Habitat
 - i. Awards will be presented at Council meeting on 12/9
 - ii. Hoffman application reviewed. *ACTION: Excellent in many ways but cannot be approved with large stand of broom in place. deStaebler will write letter to applicants and encourage them to resubmit after broom removal.*
 - iii. 1 pending application – Ilich

- b. Tip of the Month. *ACTION: Eastman will draft and post on availability of the custom wildflower mix made for the Town by Pacific Seed Company. She will also include a link to the Native Plant Store Resource List just produced by Heiple.*
- c. Guide to Town Center Plantings – nothing current
- d. Letter to Nurseries about not selling invasives – nothing current
- e. List of Local Plant Nurseries – Heiple has collated and distributed to all via email. *ACTION: Chiariello will speak with Town staff about getting on our website.*
- f. Monarch Waystations *ACTION: Heiple will obtain from Acterra for planting of local milkweed after rains begin.*
- g. Local Native Seed Collection – Murphy has communicated with Barbara Seipp the coordinator of the Woodside Native Plant Garden seed collection. That is housed in PV library while Woodside library is being renovated. Nuttall contributed our first seeds. *ACTION: At the puma talk Heiple and Plunder will provide audience with information on hyperlocal native seed program. Seipp and Murphy will do a presentation to the PV Garden Club in January.*
- h. Committee/Town cooperation
 - i. Trails. *ACTION: Murphy will bring to their attention both Dittrichia and the creek on Shady Trail.*
 - ii. Cultural Arts – noting new on library project
 - iii. Public Works – Young
 - 1. Creek at Shady Trail – Town has only a trails easement, does not own or maintain the drainage ditch. *ACTION: Plunder will draft a letter to property owners – needs to be approved by Council*
 - 2. Custom wildflower seed mix from Pacific Seed has arrived. *ACTION: Murphy will obtain ½ cup of mix to be distributed to each CC member at next meeting. We will sow in appropriate parts of right of way. We recommend Town sows some in the disturbed soil of the staging area for the new Alpine road retaining wall. Dittrichia will need to be weeded out from this area as it arises.*
 - 3. What natives should GoNative remove as they weed at Town Center? *Action: Oak seedlings, Poison Oak, Stinging Nettle, Blackberry and Willow Herb*

4. Thinning of vegetation between Corte Madera School and Frog Pond. *ACTION: Several CC members will participate in a group walk-around to discuss this when it is arranged.*
5. The parking of cars in Springdown Open Space was not supposed to occur. See photo below. *ACTION: Conservation Committee recommends that no cars be allowed on Springdown Open Space for any reason. We would like to see the chip piles moved to the adjacent roadside and a rope or fence put in place to prevent access.*
6. Recently cut down Eucalyptus are sprouting! *ACTION: we request that the sprouts on the eucalyptus be removed and the trees treated to prevent this.*
 - i. CC web site. Changes at Town Staff make this an inopportune time to make progress on this item.
 - j. Broom Pull advance planning. Murphy has contacted Scouts.
 - k. Weed seedling information sheet. Heiple reports progress is being made. He needs tech support to format properly; Eckstrom will provide.
- 6) New Business
 - a. Posting of Minutes. *ACTION: Committee sees many advantages in public posting of our minutes.*
- 7) Action Plan
 - a. Responsibilities for 10/19 Puma talk assigned
- 8) Announcements
 - a. Staci Nerdahl is being replace by Susan Cope as Administrative Services Manager. They will overlap for a month or so.
- 9) Adjourned at 9:15



Submitted by Judith Murphy, Chair