

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes
(Via ZOOM)
Wednesday, October 14, 2020

1. Call to Order 9.05am

a. Roll Call:

- i. Members: Kit Gordon, Peter Brown, George Clifford, Wendie Ward, Sue Welch, Jean Struthers; Richard Contreras.
 - ii. Associates: Nancy Couperus, Kjell Karlsson, Karen Lemes
 - iii. Council Liaison: George Tyson
 - iv. Others: Birgitta Indaco, Carol Gottlieb
- b. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2020: Moved by WW, JS 2nd, GC, KG, PB approve, SW abstain
- c. Acceptance of minutes from joint meeting with EDPC on tree ordinance, Aug 31, 2020: Moved by SW, KG 2nd. PB, WW, GC, JS approve
- d. Announcements
- i. GC announced Foothills Park opening; NC worried about traffic, deer.
 - ii. SOD blitz results announced Thursday, November 12, 6:00pm.
 - iii. Bird Box Lecture November 12, 2020, 6:00 pm.
 - iv. JS: Lecture on Mt. Umunum restoration
 - v. KG, KL: county's IPM program was intended to be cut due to expenses, but that might be reversed
 - vi. GT: EDPC fire discussion November 11: There was a discussion with members from the Planning Commission and LAHCFD, Planning Director Zach Dahl, and others. The Fire Safe Council provides info on defensible space; emphasis on emergency egress and life safety; strong interest in fire prevention; KG: what can homeowners do? Home hardening, property hygiene; talk with neighbors; be aware of exit routes; use Nixle. The Fire Science Seminar was mentioned - reduce intensity of heat; wind-blown embers more likely to ignite homes; fire-resistant roof vents: O'Hagen Fire and Ice Vents. Creation of LEAD-type classification for fire safety - egress, fire resistance. Saddle Mountain neighborhood is an example. Hazard zone rebate?

2. Planning

a. Planning site reviews

- i. 27408 Deer Springs: teardown; they built a fire road through center; made a large cut by bulldozers for a large ADU in a recommended open space easement; owners plan to move into ADU, tear down house. Kit reached out to planning to get rules on ADU's planned in open space easements, slopes greater than 30%. ADU rules are out of our hands, but not on steep slopes. Birgitta and Carol attended fast track; new property showed ADU on plans, but not the open space easement. Pathways representative was there also; attempt to abandon pathway. Shouldn't an open space easement be first before ADU? grey zone might have given up 1200 sq ft limit; putting OSE around ADU? The ADU is nested into hillside. There are no story poles. No notification is given to neighbors about ADU's. Bird safe windows?

b. Fence permit reviews

- i. GC: 12023 Adobe Creek Lodge Road - recommending wildlife-friendly fence, i.e. split rail two row fence rather than full metal fence.
- ii. JS: 13725 Robleda Road: up on hill where pathway exists; fence made of plastic netting, not wood, 6-7 feet high all around property; perimeter fence. No action recommended.

3. New Business

- a. KG: code of conduct policy meeting with Mayor Wu; council members should have a code of conduct first; members can make statements as individuals, but not use committee name, unless formally approved by committee and council. Carol: if a committee sponsors a speaker, they

should advertise through the Town, asking for publicity from council. George: council should have at least as strict code of conduct.

4. Continuing Business

- a. EDCP Landscaping Guide to be updated, PB asking for help (KG, JS volunteered). Current guide here: <https://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2169/Landscaping-Guide-EDPC-PDF> In works. Want input from committee. WW: Grassroots Ecology has a native plants book for sale. Grassroots ecology sell native plants at their nursery in Foothills park; order in advance.
- b. OSC report database: Planners will post committee reports on Trackit on the Town's website: go to <https://trakit.losaltoshills.ca.gov/etrakit/>; find "Planning Projects" and search for address. Other public reports, e.g., geotech, arborists present a copyright problem: if there is a seal, might be copyrighted. One can always still go to the Town office.
- c. Stinkwort/thistle/oxalis management update 2020 (GC)
 - i. Construction sites still a problem: Deer springs - 2 lots, covered with stinkwort; Central Drive construction site covered with stinkwort;
 - ii. SW: better than last year. JS: the Town's building inspector should be aware of stinkwort.
 - iii. Use See-Click-Fix to report problem areas.
- d. Updates on tree ordinance: no updates; Sue's document good. Planning probably won't act until next year.
- e. Fast Track/Site Development Hearings
- f. Updates on fence ordinance and question on allowing white picket fences
 - i. PB no updates
- g. Updates on Accessory Dwelling Units
 - i. GT notes large interest in ADUs in town (11 approved this year as apposed to 4 last year)
 - ii. Ask planning to notify committee when ADUs approved in area typically designated as open space easement.

5. Open Discussion

- a. Carol: trees at Byrne Preserve designating historical trees?
- b. GC: Trees at Byrne preserve will be sprayed for SOD Thursday and Friday; preserve will be closed.
- c. Monitoring bird nest boxes talk tomorrow

6. Future Topics

- a. Email suggestions to Kit. Email agenda topics to George.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 10:30am