

Conservation Committee Minutes—May 3, 2016 – FINAL

Attendees: Jim Daniel, Mary Clark, Tom Bredenberg, Robert Egemeier, Tom Brimacombe, John Parker, Mark Young (Staff Liaison), Greg Colello (Board liaison), It was determined that a quorum was established.

1. Guests: John Reynolds (prospective Committee member).

2. April minutes: The minutes were reviewed. Tom Bredenberg moved to accept, John Parker seconded. All approved the minutes.

3. Report on Annual Meeting: Chair, Jim Daniel stated that he had attended the Annual Meeting and that at the meeting he highlighted not all the projects that the committee had done, but rather the fact that our work is mainly in 4 areas: Trail work and erosion control, Signage, Education and Invasive Plant Species remediation.

4. Status of Library Trail Project: Jim reported that there is still no further word from the County in terms getting them to sign a liability release to allow the ECIA to work on these County lands, other than the fact that this could take a long time. As well, due to lack of funding, getting the County to come in and do the work was unlikely. Greg volunteered to contact Liz Stephanics office to see if there was any way she could help us to expedite this process. Also Mark pointed out that we have had some interest from an Eagle Scout Candidate from Troop 414 and this might be a way to get this project done, by hand, and with less of a liability issue. Mark will continue to communicate with this candidate and report back to the Committee.

5. Upcoming Work Projects: Also discussed were some now firm dates for upcoming trail work days. Mark will communicate these dates to the Trail Volunteers. These are as follows:

-May 21st, Saturday

-June 18th, Saturday

6. April work projects report

A) April 20th Trail 203: Jim reported that this went work day well and that the reroute was fully flagged and more than ½ of the work done on the re-route. Tom Brimacombe will try to get out in the near future to rough out the remainder of the area that needs to be completed.

B) April 27th 105/101 connector trail survey – social trails on Vista Grande: Jim Daniels reported that Jan Willem Hansen joined several committee members to walk this proposed new trail route. Much discussion arose over both the roughness of the trail area and the fact that this would not be a good trail for horses and would take a lot of work to create due to the rockiness of the area. As well, it is felt by some that Doug's trail accomplishes the same thing by providing hikers with a shorter route and connects trails 101 and 105. In the end it was decided that members could walk this proposed trail area and see for themselves if they thought that it would be a feasible trail to be formally constructed. Tom Brimacombe noted that there were some cairns placed by the entry of the trail for committee members to locate the route, but the committee decided that we did not want to promote this to the general public for use as this could cause erosion and other issues.

This conversation brought up the fact that there are a number of social trails coming off the east side of Vista Grande Peak that we should discourage the use of Rob Egemeier and John Parker both felt that it was the responsibility of the Committee as a land and trail steward to close off these trails when they are noticed and all agreed. The committee asked Mark to try to source 6 "Trail Closed" signs so such trails could be closed off with signage but felt that they did not have to be brushed.

7. Update of Ad Hoc Committee—Best Landscaping Practices: Jerry was not present by Greg Colello reported that Eduardo Krasilovsky had confirmed that this document should be not only a web based but that also we should have a printed copy for use by residents.

8. Status of Rail Trail: Jim reported that there is still no work being done on the Rail trail but it had been put out to bid and work should begin soon.

9. Update on PNM Easement: There was no update.

10. Discussion of Greenbelt trail standards drafted by John Parker: John presented his latest draft of the Greenbelt trail standards and it was well received. Greg Colello did ask that we include some verbiage about the need for all trail heads, and access easements, to be located on the actual ECIA established trail easement corridors. He also pointed out the need to formally survey any areas of the Greenbelts when trail work was to be done, if there were potential issues of encroachment onto private lands. Greg will provide John with further wording on this issue and will discuss the feasibility of the Board approving the surveying of such areas before trail work was to be done, and report back to the Committee.

11. Proposed other Projects with Jan-Willem: The committee is waiting to see what dates will work well for Jan Willem Jansens and these dates will be communicate to the member and discussed at the June meeting.

12. Update on COLTPAC Meetings: John Parker reported that there they had not met at a recent COLPAC meeting and there was no report

13. Other Business:

- Jim reported that the new book Windmill and Dreams was now available at the ECIA and had a good section on the History of the Conservations Committee.
- Tom Brimacombe asked if we might want to consider adding signs to wet trails areas that state to not use muddy trails. This was discussed but no decision made.
- Mark Young reported that our GM, Brenda Leonard is recommending that, with the resignation of Cherry Payne, and the loss of someone to do the minutes, that we appoint a secretary and/or minutes taker. This issue was discussed and members agreed that since no one wanted to do this on a regular basis that we should alternate the taking of the minutes. Tom Bredenberg agreed to do this by taking the minute at the meeting in June. It was pointed out that having access to the meeting recoding would be beneficial.

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Next Meeting: June 7th 7:00 pm