

ECIA Conservation Committee Minutes January 10 2023, 7 - 9 pm

1. Call to Order by Chair, Paul Butt at 7:05 pm.

2. Attendees

🎬 Roll call of members and determination of quorum:

Carol Beidleman, present

Thom Bredenberg, present

Tom Brimacombe, excused absence

John Parker present

Paul Butt, Chair, present

Quorum status: yes, 4 of 5 members attending

🎬 Liaisons:

Jonathan Turkle (Board Liaison) not present

ECIA Alternate: not present

Mike Rogers (HOAMCO Liaison) present

🎬 Meeting Assistance: Niamh Walsh (HOAMCO Staff)

🎬 Guests: Darrel Owen, Paul and Andra Fink, Joan Mitchell, Jeff and Michelle Iasilli

3. Appointment of recording secretary: Thom Bredenberg

For March meeting: Carol Beidleman

4. Approval of Agenda: Motion by: Carol Beidleman, 2nd by: John Parker

Vote: unanimous, motion carried

5. Announcements:

Meeting is live and streamed on ZOOM with the following rules:

Guests are muted until recognized.

Guests should type in name and full address. If you wish to speak during the OPEN FORUM, please state your topic. Residents will be recognized on a first come, first served basis. Guests are limited to three minutes of discussion. For longer discussions, guests must notify the Committee Chair no later than seven days in advance of the Committee meeting, and the item will be placed on the agenda.

Private messaging during the meeting is disabled.

An audio recording of the Zoom meeting will be made, and will be available after the meeting upon request to conservationchair@gmail.com

6. Approval of November Minutes: Motion by: John Parker, 2nd by: Carol Beidleman

Vote: unanimous, motion carried

7. Board Liaison Report by Jonathan Turkle, deferred

8. HOAMCO Report by Mike Rogers:

🗺️ Herrada Terrace Greenbelt Access trail update (Mike Rogers & Paul Butt)

The existing social trail through the signed access point encroaches on 6 Herrada Terrace. The new property owners want the access trail re-routed off of their land so essential construction can proceed. The correct Greenbelt access has been "demarcated" by surveyors. An access trail through the easement needs to be constructed from the end of Herrada Terrace south to join the east-west trail in the Los Alamos Park Greenbelt to replace the encroaching trail. HOAMCO used the arena drag, a type of harrow, from the stables, to re-route and groom the main Los Alamos Park trail.

The demarcated area is narrow, steep and deeply incised and it is a challenging place in which to design and build a sustainable trail. Since this social trail developed as a result of inaccurate signage, HOAMCO will do the construction once the trail has been flagged. Flagging is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17 or Tuesday, January 24, starting at 10:30. It will take about an hour to look at the situation and flag the route. Camerada Loop is a similar but much simpler issue. Consensus that trail abandonment without offering an acceptable alternative is bad precedent.

(Momentary technical difficulties)

🗺️ Fuel Reduction in Greenbelts, The Greenbelt Policy and SOP for fuel reduction approved at November Committee meeting, Paul will submit to the Board for January meeting (approved copy attached to agenda)

10. New Business:

🗺️ Committee Charter updates: Discussion: Agree to make following changes to Section 3.0, Working Procedures

Change "monthly" meetings" to "shall meet bimonthly with meetings on odd numbered months" Retain "can meet in other months, if needed, by Committee vote."

Delete "The chair can designate a Secretary and Vice Chair" and substitute "The chair can designate an alternate for any function of the Chair"

Reduce quorum definition to "simple majority of the members"

Change 5.0 to waive 3-meeting requirement for prospective member consideration, by Committee vote.

Discussion re above

Motion to approve, that is, submit the above charter updates to the Board for consideration at their next meeting (February) by John Parker, 2nd Thom Bredenberg, motion carried, unanimous.

📊 Initial project review & prioritization for 2023.

📊 Trail 302 Meadow project update (Paul Butt): 3 volunteer work days so far with Ecotone supervision. Log berm to be replaced in the spring and erosion control structures to be completed this year. Jan-Willem Jansens of Ecotone will need to stay involved due to the unique nature of hügelkultur restoration and need to keep laser leveling constant. No new contract will be required if his services do not exceed \$2500

📊 Trailhead One access road project review (Paul Butt): Decided to proceed as money had been budgeted for 2022. HOAMCO maintenance successfully completed this project, with base course spread, compacted.

301 trail maintenance: Completion of "first mile" maintenance 2/3 completed, upper third left to do, sometime in Spring, will schedule in March.

o 200 Series new sign installation: Schedule later in winter

o Trail 201 "first mile" maintenance: Gravel acquired for fixing mud holes on 201, continue scouting route for mechanized work using HOAMCO equipment and personnel.

o Proposal to scout the southeastern portion of the preserve for possible trail corridors and ultimately a new trail. The area has good views and pleasing contours and would compliment existing trail-building efforts of recent years. This is a matter in need of further discussion and will be so noted on the March agenda.

John Parker, 401 needs small work on a new section between 4A and 4B, step sections, scheduled for January 20, 10:00, John will lead, only small tools (trowels) required.

101 work and 404 meadow and 401 erosion control, all hand work.

Completion of the above projects this year are mostly handwork and will require no outside equipment or personnel other than HOAMCO maintenance.

Discussion on Camerada Loop access: Thom Bredenberg, #53 all lot markers are located, on #55 3 out of 4 located. Set a time for Mike, Paul and Thom to walk it and determine if "demarcation" (as in the Herrada Terrace issue above) is warranted. Paul suggests surveying as a standalone project.

Joan Mitchell (guest): Curious about plans for Camerada Loop. Thom, the primary goal is erosion control in drainage easement, establish a trail to encourage walkers to walk further north allowing the damaged land to recover and reduce impact on drainage easement. No Committee plans at this time to upgrade upper Gallina Park social trails.

OK for the Chair to purchase material, etc. to complete the above projects.

11. Old Business:

📺 Committee administration (follow-up on ConservationChair@gmail.org email acct monitoring changes proposal): Paul will talk to Mike and Julie about HOAMCO monitoring the account starting this month to handle routine matters and refer matters to Committee Chair if needed.

📺 Selection of Chair to prepare agenda, announcements and conduct the March meeting: Thom Bredenberg volunteers to do these tasks but expresses reservations concerning his qualifications to represent the Committee before the Board, especially in situations when the Board tasks the Committee to perform work outside of the Committee's charter. Paul and Thom will work on annual report per charter presumably due in February.

12. Open Forum: None

Recap, next meeting March 7, 2023 7:00, Thom will chair, Thom will draft the agenda for Paul's review. Thom states he cannot vet or edit Vista articles as Chair, Paul says nothing in the hopper at this time; Carol offered to help this task. Ok for Mike to rerun muddy trails article.

Some items we wanted posted on the ECIA webpage are not; put as an agenda item for March. Thom will draft a preliminary list of items. Paul will follow up on posting weed articles and the preserve policy.

Action items pending Board consideration:

Charter changes

Fuel Reduction SOP

13. Motion to adjourn: Motion by: Thom Bredenberg, 2nd by: Carol Beidleman

Vote: unanimous, motion carried

Adjournment time: 8:28 PM