

**TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Los Altos Hills Town Hall
26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills
Wednesday, July 12, 2023**

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Richard Contreras at 9:10 am. Members present: Peter Brown, Kit Gordon, Richard Contreras, Paul Marcos, Wendie Ward, Anita Baldwin. Absent: Viggie Mokkarala. Also present: The Hon. Lisa Schmidt

Minutes

- RC moved and PB seconded the May 10, 2023 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

- WW recounted the history of the fallen tree across Adobe Creek in her neighborhood.

Planning

Planning site reviews:

- **13021 N. Alta**, new residence and ADU with attached garage. Concerns included over-removal of existing trees, the steep slope with swale down to neighbors' property, discussion on whether to dedicate an easement, and the existence of a proposed solar panel within that easement. The abutting neighbor also has a solar panel. KG moved, PB seconded, and the recommendations below passed unanimously.

OSC Recommendations:

1. Recommend landscaping with native plants. See calscape.org for list of plants native to Los Altos Hills.
2. Add Condition of Approval (COA): Shall remove all Stinkwort plants (*Dittrichia graveolens*) from entire property and the road ROW by manual pulling or herbicide by Sept 1 of each year until final building approval.
3. Protect oak tree #21 during construction.

4. Remove chain link fencing from proposed open space easement.
 5. Require developer to dedicate an open space easement starting approximately at the 430' contour line to the property line, with allowance for future solar panel installation. [See diagram]
 6. Consider placing the solar panels on roof instead of separate ground-based array.
 7. Mowing in the open fields, overgrown with thistle and other shrubs.
 8. Reduce the number of trees for removal, especially protected oaks:
 - a. #1 - Valley Oak (Protected)
 - b. #22 - Blue Oak (Protected)
 - c. #27 - Coast Live Oak (Protected)
 - d. #39 - Blue Oak (Protected)
 - e. #43 - Coast Live Oak (Protected)
- **26050 Kriste Lane**, major addition and remodel. The footprint remains essentially the same; not lots of habitat. AB moved, RC seconded, and the recommendations below passed unanimously

OSC Recommendations:

1. Recommend landscaping with native plants. See calscape.org for list of plants native to Los Altos Hills.
 2. Remove French broom from Kriste Ln frontage annually. French broom is highly invasive and flammable. See comments below from CA Invasive Plant Council.
 3. Add Condition of Approval (COA): Shall remove all Stinkwort plants (*Dittrichia graveolens*) from entire property and the road ROW by manual pulling or herbicide by Sept 1 of each year until final building approval.
 4. Although small areas with slopes over 30% qualify for open space easement, no easements are recommended at this time.
- **13891 Ciceroni Lane**, lot line adjustment, new residence. A number of properties will be coalesced into fewer via lot line adjustment. There is a large open space area and various buildings. Recommendations were moved by PB, seconded by PM, passed unanimously.

OSC Recommendations:

1. Recommend landscaping with native plants. See calscape.org for list of plants native to Los Altos Hills.

2. Add Condition of Approval (COA): Shall remove all Stinkwort plants (*Dittrichia graveolens*) from entire property and the road ROW by manual pulling or herbicide by Sept 1 of each year until final building approval.
3. Remove spikes from all fences.
4. Remove cluster of eucalyptus trees.
5. Consider reducing perimeter fence to allow more wildlife movement and habitat.
6. Consider voluntary conservation easement over meadow for permanent preservation of this land.

Fast Track meeting recaps:

- May 23: 12105 Oak Park Court, 26626 Westwind Way, and 14096 Seven Acres Lane: no issues.
- May 30: 12105 Oak Park Court (cont.): no issues.
- June 13: 10842 Loyola Drive: WW, no issues.
- July 11: 13109 Byrd Lane (rescheduled to next week), 27911 Via Ventana, and 13891, 13880, 13861 Ciceroni and 13880, 13902 Campo Vista: KG, PM, AB. No issues but recommendations for Ciceroni Lane in these minutes.

New Business

- George Clifford was voted in as an Associate Member, KG moved, PB seconds, all approved unanimously.
- “Living with Coyotes” messaging from town – discussion centered on how best to educate the public about reasonable coyote behavior, and to refine messaging from the town in the coming year.
- New officers for OSC – Paul Marcos was elected Chair, Wendie Ward Vice Chair, Anita Baldwin Secretary. RC moved, KG seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Byrne Preserve Mitigation – the ravine in Byrne Preserve will undergo mitigation as a stand-in for Page Mill Road bridge improvements, which could not be effectuated.
- Stinkwort mapping efforts – ongoing. Members are encouraged to find areas of Stinkwort, send any large infestations to Kit, and to pull out small ones.
- Additional Byrne Preserve signs – OSC will work with the town to supply a few more signs, but physically smaller than existing ones and with less text.
- It was agreed that the OSC needs a large permanent sign for town events. AB to contact Deborah Padovan to start the process.

Continuing Business

- Town committee webpage enhancements - AB reported that the comment period from other committee chairs was essentially closed and that the Ad

Hoc committee would now finalize a document which suggests improvements to the town committee webpages, and send it on to Deborah Padovan.

- Proposed Resolution and Code of Conduct for Committees – LS said that talks are in progress.
- OSC will plan to have messages about stinkwort and artificial turf in the City Manager's Report soon.
- The Native Garden at Town Hall – suggestions were made, since little is currently being done on a larger scale, to add some plants in the fall.
- Landslide risk GIS layer from County - KG suggested that the town, which currently does not have a map of landslide/fire risk areas on its GIS, import this information from the county as an important extra layer of information.

Open Discussion

LS reported that the housing element has been approved and accepted. The three areas designated are Twin Oaks, Foothill College, and St. Nicholas. Discussion of an emergency zoning ordinance to allow for more housing as well and discussion of the status of builder's remedy.

Adjournment by RC at 11:15 am.