FINAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER
Eldona Hamel, Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 3:05 pm.

ROLL CALL
Present were Eldona Hamel, Elizabeth Caselton, Don Pugh, Maggie Mah, Anne Van Camp, Cathy Brisbane, Kim Hansen, Rick DeBenedetti.

Absent: Kurt Frieden, Sarah Rivers

Also present:
Sean Rose, Town engineer and Ken Morrison representing property owner of 675 Mountain Home Rd.

QUORUM: Six Members (Minimum)

APPROVED, MINUTES for September 14, 2017 Rick made the motion and Maggie seconded it. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
Persons wishing to address the Committee on any matter not on the posted agenda are invited to do so, Please note, however, that the committee is not able to undertake expended discussion or to act on non-agenda items. Such items can be referred to staff for appropriate action, which may include placement on a future agenda. As a courtesy to others, the communications should be kept to a three-minute limit.

Cathy Brisbane: said she talked to the owner of the property on Greer Road. Project is on Committee list located at 250 Greer Road to widen the trail. They were unhappy because it’s taken too long for permits (18 months).
Discussion about this topic with Rick DeBenedetti commenting he is opposed to trying to expedite this project because of upcoming Day of The Horse.
Sean Rose thought the Town crew can just make improvements on the property easement without involving the owner making improvements requiring permits within the public right of way. He planned to talk to the owner to move ahead in making the trail improvements. More discussion in Old Business - Projects.

Don Pugh: New hitching rails to be installed tomorrow at Pescadero Creek Park. He reported about recent Napa fire challenges: Mounted Patrol Foundation was funding and delivering hay to Napa Valley Horseman’s Association property for evacuated horses...approximately 200 horses. Other contributions for fire victims requested. Additional feed deliveries planned.
Rick DeBenedetti said the Woodside Community Foundation also delivering hay to various rescued horses in the Napa Sonoma vicinity.
Kim Hansen volunteered to post articles about fire victims and donations in NextDoor Woodside and Maggie Mah will report to the Almanac.
NEW BUSINESS

Guest, Ken Morrison representing Ellison at 675 Mountain Home Road:
They have a new proposal that would keep the existing horse trail where it is and the owner will build a paved driveway that would cross the trail connecting his two properties. Gates that can automatically open/close would be installed to drive from one property to the next. Pavement crossing the trail would be ruffed for horse safety. Plans will be submitted to the Town for approvals.
The Trails Committee expressed support for this plan.

OLD BUSINESS


2. Continued Review of trails project list and budget.

#1137 Marva Oaks: Sean reported it was on a priority list to complete. He has found there is much opposition from all the property owners because of their privacy concerns. The Town officials have elected not to move forward on this trail project. There is a concern the owners might take legal action to stop the trail improvements around their properties if the Town proceeds.
Kim Hansen expressed concern of the danger to riders and horses who have to ride in the street there.
Sean suggests our committee could contact the Town Manager and the Council expressing our concerns.
Don suggested any of the committee members could personally talk to property owners about solving the safety issue for horses. Anne suggested making the pavement safer for horses. Sean said it’s old pavement and fairly good for horses now. There may be a drainage problem along the trail at present, causing a hazard.

MOTION made by Kim and seconded by Don: Committee draft a document to the Town Council expressing our desire to have a trail built along Marva Oaks for safety reasons, so horses are not forced into the street.

#1144 Whiskey Hill to Manzanita trail and creek crossing:
Kelly, primary property owner now doesn’t support a bridge be built crossing the creek on her property. Other neighbors not supportive of a bridge. They seem OK with the horses crossing the creek. We discussed making modest trail and creek crossing improvements for use as a seasonal trail. Some annual maintenance would likely be needed.
Sean offered to assist in modifying the easement first, then proceed with the trail crossing improvements.

MOTION made by Don and Elizabeth seconded: Staff asked to investigate and create the “seasonal creek crossing” improvements proposal and easement change, and follow-up with the property owners.

#250 Greer Road trail project discussion:
Sean reported the trail improvements can be done as we see fit on the Town right of way, and independent of the owner’s grading issues. They can grade their property per their approved grading permit, which is not necessarily affecting the trail. Sean will discuss with owner the Town plan to go ahead with the horse trail improvement and make plans to expedite it.
For Day of the Horse...barriers will be put in place to divert riders from the existing trail on the property. Sean will report to the committee next month about this plan and make this project a top priority.

MOTION made by Don: Sean will expedite the permit for the property owner and make the trail improvements on the easement apart from what the property owner wants to do (grading etc.)

Maintenance Projects:
ANNE expressed our “thank you” to Sean and the crew for an “amazing job” and requested we draft a letter to the Town about the quality of their work.
Elizabeth requested to Sean that some maintenance work be done on the trail along Fox Hollow Rd that is rutted from water run off. Also the same for the trail on Mountain Home Court. Sean will look into this trail to find out if it’s a Town Trail responsibility or if it is a private road.

#3 Review of awards guidelines and presentations:
Maggie sent our awards documents to Kevin Bryant for input and approvals. Haven’t received back from him yet. Kevin is supportive with our 2017 award recipients.

We confirmed the Londons be given the Trails Appreciation Award and Fentress Hall given the Legacy Award for 2017. We are going to try to make the presentations at the Town Council meeting on December 12th. Maggie and Elizabeth will collaborate on taking steps to create these awards.

#4-5 No reports from Equestrian Heritage Committee or the Circulation Committee.

MORE NEW BUSINESS:

#6. DOTH trail needs:
Maggie requested a priority repair job of the bridge on the trail of Kings Mountain Court be done before the DOTH. Also across from Tripp Rd Store there are some rodent holes that may need some filling in.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: All the minutes are being posted on the Town website.
The meeting was Adjourned at 4:35 pm

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Caselton.