

Land Stewardship Committee

October 4, 2019

Attendees: Vic Amoroso, Jody Angel, Janine Aroyan, Tish Brown, Meg Simonds, Genie McNaughton

Guest: David Taylor, Trail Center volunteer

Path

a. Three agencies maintenance idea

Genie went to the school and talked to the secretary, Johanna Scutt, explaining the concept of the school, Mesa Park and the BCPUD sharing a maintenance person on a regular basis to work for a few hours/mo on specific tasks for each of the agencies. Johanna thought the superintendent would be the person to talk to about this. A week or so later, the 7/8 grade teacher, Gohar Yervandyan, contacted Genie to find out about the proposal. She said that the students are interested in community projects, have already been working with USF and by the way, don't like the path as it is laid out. If they could be involved in redesigning the path, that would be of interest. They might have time in January. It would be interesting to hear what the students have to say – perhaps they could come to a meeting in the January to present their thoughts.

b. Path hardening pilot

Ken hoped he could talk to Kevin Lunney when he was in Bolinas working on another project, but they didn't connect. **Ken will call him again.**

c. Genie invited David Taylor, who has been a volunteer with the Trail Center, a non-profit volunteer organization based in the peninsula, for three decades, to walk the bicycle path and talk with us about his work and give us his thoughts about the path. Information about the Trail Center can be found at trailcenter.org. In his opinion, the path is in pretty good shape.

- Drainage could be improved
- The big berms at the top of the path (from Mesa Rd) would be hard to change

- At the goat farm, there's a smaller area where a berm could be lowered to move the water toward the farm
- Best to avoid drainage ditches if possible
- The switchback area needs work, there the drainage should move to the out slope
- At the path down to the eucalyptus, the water should be shunted off with a wide and broad drain dip, following the topography

Where to go with this? Contact Open Space to inquire about Marin County trail expertise and support?

- d. Don Murch and Bill Pierce reviewed the situation at the switchback and the BCPUD paid Don to clear it.

Knoll

- a. Don removed cotoneaster stumps from the middle of the knoll, it looks great. The cost was \$450. A motion to spend \$300-\$350 of the LSC funds to have Don remove more stumps from the knoll (how many for this amount of \$?). Ken made the motion, Meg seconded it, all in favor, none opposed. **Janine will follow up with Don and the BCPUD.**
- b. Ann Young, an expert landscaper and botanist who lived in Bolinas for many years, visited the knoll with Ken recently to look at the native plants growing there. She was very impressed by the number of natives and provided Ken with a list of plants on the knoll that she identified and a shorter list of other plants that might be there.

Identified plant species:

Quercus agrifolia - Coast live oak

Rhamnus californica - coffeeberry

Baccharis pilularis consanguinea – coyote bush

Rhus diversilobus – poison oak

Heteromeles arbutifolia – toyon

Polystichum munitum – western sword fern

Corylus cornuta var. californica - California hazel (a significant stand)

Iris douglasiana – Douglas iris
Sambucus racemosa – red elderberry
Lonicera hispidula – hairy honeysuckle
Heracleum lanatum – cow parsley

Plant species, not found, possibly present

Artemisia douglasiana – mugwort
Rubus parviflorus – thimbleberry
Marah fabacea – manroot (was seen in the spring)
Symphoricarpos albus – snowberry

Ann also had some thoughts on knoll management:

“Non-native vegetation management should be the priority for several years as opposed to planting. The management of cotoneaster, broom and eucalyptus is quite disruptive but needs to continue without the hindrance of new plantings. Perpetually mowed areas should be maintained as firebreaks amidst islands of native plants. Volunteer native plants can in the meantime be protected or even transplanted to augment developing pockets of native vegetation. The widespread volunteerism of Douglas fir should be discouraged.”

- c. Grant application potential: California Wildlands Grassroots Fund, rolling applications (February 15 is next deadline), amount is \$7500 or less. Proposal must go to the board, equipment, continuing work to enhance native plants would be eligible. An outreach component could include support from Melissa Stone (USF) or BSBUSD.

Genie will get send an outline of a proposal to all for review.

Lease Proposal

The BCPUD accepted the LSC’s recommendation not to support the proposal by Ian Rich to lease a number of areas on the BCPUD land for farming activity. Rich, who was absent when the item was on the agenda, inquired of Jennifer as to what are the requirements for developing a proposal to use the land. **Item for**

next meeting and further: It was not on the agenda for this meeting, but it might be a useful exercise to discuss and perhaps develop a general guide for leasing the property for the BCPUD's review.

Finances

There is \$1300 in the budget. With the approval to spend \$300 – 350 for cotoneaster removal, there will be ~\$1000 left.

Soil test

No update

Other

We also had a brief discussion about committee members using Land Steward Committee membership identification for non-committee opinion articles.

Next meeting: Friday, November 22, possible workday Sunday, November 17th