

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting  
Minutes 1/25/2019

Attendees: Vic Amoroso, Jody Angel, Janine Aroyan, Tish Brown, Ken Masterton, Genie McNaughton  
Absent: Meg Simonds, Mickey Murch (non-voting member)

1. Path

Signage – No Unauthorized Motorized Vehicles. Are there signs posted? Do they indicate that unauthorized vehicles are not allowed?

**\*ACTION:** Walk on the land and view/take pictures of the signs for the record

In addition, the BCPUD has put out a bid for an annual visit from the goats to keep the area below the knoll and the eucalyptus grove cleared. The finance committee is working on this.

**UPDATE:** Genie spoke with Jennifer. There are signs that were put up in response to a number of requests:

From the shepherd during the Calfire project – goats were disturbed  
Neighbors complained about the noise  
Other community members voiced concerns  
Jennifer also spoke with the parents of the mini-cyclists

Maintenance

This is a continuing discussion. The BCPUD has a budget for path maintenance and has reached out to various community members with the appropriate equipment to take on the approximately 10-hour/month work. The work includes clearing the path of debris and shaving emerging tree roots. A suggestion was made to contact the Mesa Park manager, Michael Cavette (415-203-2406) to ask if he might know of someone who would be interested.

For maintenance work that might be done by the BCPUD:

First, a post has been placed at the bottom of the hill (Mesa and Olema-Bolinas Road) to keep bicyclists from riding into traffic.

Clearing the vegetation at the sharp curve at the path below the goat farm. Pampas grass should be removed and acacia trimmed back 25' along the path. Don

**\*ACTION:** Tish and Genie will contact Mike Cavette. Janine will talk to Billy about each project. The Committee will write up a proposal to bring to the BCPUD meeting.

**UPDATE:** Genie spoke with Michael Cavette.

Mike told me that he has trouble keeping maintenance people as well and currently is doing it himself with one other person. The problem as he sees it is that there are too few hours per month to be able to keep anyone on for very long. As we talked, we thought it might be more attractive to someone to have a couple of full days a month instead of a few hours a week. And would it be possible for that person to work at Mesa Park and the BCPUD land and the school to make up a more reliable schedule of similar maintenance work? Would a local landscaping company be interested in this? **We'll put this item on the agenda for the next LSC meeting.**

## 2. The Knoll

The CalFire project cleared the area and left a nice layer of mulch on the knoll. But the cotoneaster is starting to sprout. This is the season to clear out the root systems and young plants. What to do on the knoll and the other areas where the cotoneaster has formed thick groves?

A Committee member will ask Don Murch how much it would cost to remove the roots from the knoll.

Genie asked Jennifer about the possibility of removing some to all of the cotoneaster growing up along the canyon in the drainage way. There is a constraint: the area has been identified as red-legged frog habitat, which means that only “flush cutting”, with no soil disturbance, can be done by hand and then during the season when the endangered species are not there. The BCPUD will get advice from the contract biologist.

**\*ACTION:** Call Don to inquire about his ability and availability to remove cotoneaster roots from the knoll. Check with Jennifer about procedure to reduce the cotoneaster grove while protecting the endangered frog. (Genie and ?)

**UPDATE:** Genie spoke with Don at the knoll on Wednesday Feb 6 at 9:00am to assess what needs to be done and how much it will cost to remove cotoneaster roots on the knoll site and to look at what could/should be done to control the grove of cotoneaster growing along the edge of the knoll along the canyon. The area has been designated as red-legged frog habitat. Don is aware of that and is trained to evaluate and avoid that habitat. He suggests

- Removing cotoneaster stumps (\$100/stump) in August, when he mows the area
- Removing the logs from the area, perhaps offering them to the community for firewood
- Using local goats to keep the debris and young vegetation down. If the BCPUD had portable fencing, perhaps the goats on site, or other local goats could be brought in to do the clearing.
- Develop a plan that creates islands of native shrubs within the grassy area
- No need to pile up weeds to move to Resource Recovery (RR); leave them in place to decompose
- On another related issue, RR has trouble giving away compost because of the plastic that is in the green waste; an outreach campaign to remind people to remove any plastic before collection would improve the acceptability of the compost

Tish, Ken, Meg and Genie met on Sunday, 2/24, to pull broom and look over the knoll area. They found:

- Due to the fire reduction project, the knoll area is quite a bit larger
- There is little broom left but there are many cotoneaster stumps, large and small
- There is strong agreement to remove the logs or to configure them in a circle to create a shrub island and to make weeding around them easier
- We did remove some emerging cotoneaster and thistle and found soaproot (amole or cloroglossum) growing along the canyon sloping toward resource recovery

**These ideas should be discussed under the knoll item at our next meeting.**

3. Finances  
Meg, our treasurer, was not at the meeting, so we relied on our collective memory. We believe we have \$1300 that the BCPUD is holding for us. The funds are from private contributions.
4. Soil Testing  
Jody asked about the metal box in the field below the monitoring ponds above Parcel B. Is it protecting a well where treatment system water can be collected and tested? Billy or Jennifer could likely inform us.

**\*ACTION:** Jody will ask about the contents of the box.

5. Other  
CalFire project update (see Item 1.)  
BCPUD land outside the Sewer Ponds  
A question about a 200x100 parcel on Aspen near Alder. A neighbor told Janine that County is sending information to the Land Trust, not the BCPUD. Was there any notice of the BCPUD giving access/ ownership of the parcel to the Land Trust? Under what conditions were the parcels given to the BCPUD and what is the process for requesting use or ownership by a congruent land owner? Janine will ask Jennifer about the BCPUD policy after she has done some further research into county records.  
There are some interesting articles in the Pt Reyes Light about the Tacherra property: who bought it and under what conditions will uses be made of it.
6. Next meeting date not set. We will communicate by email as to status of action items to determine when to meet. In the meantime:

**WORKDAY at the Knoll: February 24 10:00 to 1:00**

Genie will draft the announcement for your review to be posted downtown and in the Hearsay two weeks (Feb 11) before the event .