



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Conservation Committee Meeting
Jan. 6, 2026
5:30 PM

Marianne Plunder, Chair
Judith Murphy, Vice Chair
Megan Richards, Secretary
Nona Chiariello, Member
Teresa Coleman, Member
Sarah Gilbert, Member
Eliza Low, Student Member
Chris Morace, Pending
Dieter Walz, Member
Joerg Zimmerman, Member

A G E N D A

HISTORIC SCHOOLHOUSE– 765 PORTOLA RD. – PORTOLA VALLEY, CA

REMOTE MEETING ADVISORY: On March 1, 2023, all committees in Portola Valley will return to conducting in-person meetings. A Zoom link will be provided for members of the public to participate remotely; however, the Town cannot guarantee there will be no technical issues with the software during the meeting. For best public participation results, attending the meeting in-person is advised.

ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Town Clerk at (650) 851-1700 or by email at towncenter@portolavalley.net. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

To access the meeting by computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87269161149?pwd=abntbQbgPwmbXA68aTJcZBe4wMJp73.1>

Meet ID: **872 6916 1149**

Passcode: **840105**

To access the meeting by phone:

1-669-900-6833 or 1-888-788-0099 (toll free)

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
 - a. Speaker's time is limited to three minutes.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES Dec. 2, 2025**
- 4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
 - a. Select & Prioritize 2026 tasks and pair with lead and subcommittee members
 - i. Requested by Town
 1. Building permits /site reviews
 2. Review of new landscaping plans
 3. Review Tree removal permit
 4. Code Section 15.12.260 – Erosion Control and Landscaping: Review of plant materials for non-residential projects.
 5. Code Section 18.56.020 – 25% Front Yard Requirement: Review of roadside planting against established standards in districts other than residential
 6. Site visits with ASCC
 - ii. Town Open Space Oversight – requested by Town Council
 - iii. Lobby to get Fence Permit Reviews assigned to the Committee
 - iv. Tip of the Month
 - v. What's Blooming Now
 - vi. Kudos

- vii. What are the frogs doing now
- viii. Annual Broom pull
- ix. Promote Habitat Preservation, Wildlife Corridors & Wildlife-friendly Fencing through education and public outreach; Advance proposed Wildlife Friendly Fence Ordinance.
- x. Educational Nature App Initiative – Motivate residents to learn more about their backyard (birds, butterflies, wildlife and native vegetation). Start with hikes and schools.
- xi. Revive Backyard Habitat Program
- xii. CC Town website pages – keep current & add
- xiii. Promote Rodenticide free PV
- xiv. Update ADU ministerial checklist
- xv. Liaison to School District
- xvi. Liaison to other Committees
- xvii. Liaison to ASCC

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Recap of meeting with D. Smith, R. Burt and C. Booker (Murphy)
- b. Tip of the Month (Richards, Plunder)
- c. What's Blooming Now (Chiariello, Plunder)
- d. Kudos (Murphy)
- e. What are the frogs doing now (Murphy)
- f. Committee / Townwide Cooperation
- g. Discuss duration of monthly meeting

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Corte Madera field spraying (Chiariello)

7. SITE PERMITS

- a. 195 Ramoso pending (Richards)
- b. 140 Degas 2nd review done
- c. 95 Sausal 2nd review done

8. TREE PERMITS (Chiariello, Plunder, Walz)

- a. 10 Ohlone done
- b. 228 Westridge done
- c. 140 Shawnee Pass pending

9. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The next regularly scheduled meeting date is Feb. 3, 2025, at 5:30pm

The Town of Portola Valley acknowledges the colonial history of this land we dwell upon—the unceded territory of the Ramaytush (rah-my-toosh) Ohlone, Tamien Nation, and Muwekma (mah-WEK-mah) Ohlone, who endured a human and cultural genocide that included removal from their lands and their sacred relationship to the land. Portola Valley recognizes that we profit from the commodification of land seized from indigenous peoples and now bear the ecological consequences. We seek to understand the impact of these legacies on all beings and to find ways to make repair.^[1]^[2]



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Conservation Committee Meeting
Dec 02, 2025
5:30 PM

Marianne Plunder, Chair
Judith Murphy, Vice Chair
Megan Richards, Secretary
Nona Chiariello, Member
Teresa Coleman, Member
Sarah Gilbert, Member
Eliza Low, Student Member
(honorary)
Dieter Walz, Member
Joerg Zimmerman, Member

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm

Members present: M. Plunder, M. Richards, N. Chiariello, T. Coleman, J. Murphy, D. Walz

Members absent: J. Zimmerman, S. Gilbert, E. Low

Also present: R. Flynn (Town Council Liaison), C. Morris

Attendance Via zoom: D. Cardinal

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- a. Speaker's time is limited to three minutes.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES Nov 25, 2025

- a. *Approved unanimously with one edit; N. Chiariello and D. Walz abstain*

4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- a. Election of chair, vice chair, and secretary: *existing slate nominated to continue; approved unanimously*
- b. Discuss priorities for 2026: Preliminary discussion to be continued at future meetings;
 - i. M. Plunder is interested in advancing wildlife friendly measures, including wildlife corridors, fencing, rodenticides, and backyard inventory.
 - ii. Continue vegetation management recommendations for town-owned open space and residents
 - iii. Continue to develop articles and promote education; potentially host an event, as time and topics allow
 - iv. M. Richards recommends leaving space for the work that comes up during the year.
 - v. N. Chiariello asks that members come prepared to sign up for events so that the work is shared.
- c. Discuss duration of monthly committee meetings: Members will come to the next meeting prepared to discuss methods to keep meetings shorter than two hours. Initial discussion includes limiting extraneous conversation both on and off topic from guests and committee members.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Town Open Space Maintenance Report - Plant management plan / proposed scope of work 2026/27 (Murphy, Richards): No additional comments; *approved unanimously* to be shared with Public Works.
- b. ADU ministerial checklist – review & re-submit to Town (Plunder, Richards) - deferred
- c. Wildlife Corridors/Habitat Preservation & Wildlife Inventory Program Community Engagement (Plunder)
 - i. Poll dates for Committee visit to Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve to learn more about their wildlife research, education, and stewardship initiatives - M. Plunder will send out a poll asking for committee member availability.

- ii. Update on “Nature App” for hikes and backyard usage - Subcommittee has not identified an app that will aggregate data in a way that is shareable on a townwide level. Alternatives could include creating an app or website.
 - 1. N. Chiariello recommends finding out what teachers and students are using. Inaturalist is probably the most popular.
 - 2. D. Cardinal agrees that people will use what they already know and mentioned Merlin bird app being popular due to its audio recognition feature.
 - 3. M. Plunder suggests committee move ahead with fence ordinance without waiting to coordinate with hike and app, which will take time
- d. Tip of the Month (Richards, Plunder)
 - i. Pull oxalis, sow wildflowers
- e. What’s Blooming Now (Chiariello, Plunder)
 - i. Toyon
- f. Kudos (Murphy)
 - i. See November minutes
- g. Rat Poison Free Portola Valley–Dec Town Newsletter article (Low, Chiariello, Plunder) - undergoing edits and will return to the committee.
- h. Committee / Townwide Cooperation
 - i. Trails (Coleman) - not discussed
 - ii. Nature and Science (Murphy) - Discussion of tabling at wildlife awareness event on January 25; Committee members are not available to host.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. M. Plunder introduced Chris Morace, potential committee member. Chris met the Conservation Committee through review of a tree removal permit. He has lived in Town for 11 years and has a background in biology.

7. SITE PERMITS - not discussed

- a. 131 Brookside 2nd review pending

8. TREE PERMITS - not discussed

9. ADJOURNMENT: 6:15 pm

- a. The next regularly scheduled meeting date is January 2, 2025, at 5:30pm

The Town of Portola Valley acknowledges the colonial history of this land we dwell upon—the unceded territory of the Ramaytush (rah-my-toosh) Ohlone, Tamien Nation, and Muwekma (mah-WEK-mah) Ohlone, who endured a human and cultural genocide that included removal from their lands and their sacred relationship to the land. Portola Valley recognizes that we profit from the commodification of land seized from indigenous peoples and now bear the ecological consequences. We seek to understand the impact of these legacies on all beings and to find ways to make repair.