**OEC Meeting Minutes/Staff Report**

**May 11, 2020**

Present: Monica Carey, John Humphries, Rhonda Claridge, Tyler Schultz

Guest: Ken Haynes

Zoom meeting

**Agenda:**

* 1. Discuss road maintenance as related to native species protection performed YTD and planned for year remaining (Ken 10 min)
  2. Provide recommendation regarding pending tree planting in east Ophir in Open Space.
  3. Review definition of Open Space and identify specific inclusions and exclusions.
  4. Review town resident complaint regarding rogue tree cutting on social trails outside of town boundaries.
  5. Review OEC purview per Three Mile Plan and identify target areas and procedures for follow-through.
  6. Review any further planned collaborations with P&Z regarding new Master Plan.
  7. OEC intent re E Stuffings summer water quality email
  8. Review FS response to Ophir Swamp Project comment letter

**Action Items:**

1. Add discussion item to GA re tree-cutting and other impacts of transitioning social trails to developed bike trails (Monica) **DONE**
2. Notify recommendation to approve tree-planting plan of 50 blue spruce saplings (Monica) **DONE**.
3. Request that Mayor reach out to USFS to get the gates along the Ophir Pass reinstalled/repaired (Monica) **DONE**
4. Request repair of Waterfall gate asap (Monica) **DONE**
5. Forward draft Master Plan to OEC (Monica) **DONE**
6. Forward to Mayor -add Carbonero to the list of locations, water quality testing by SMWC (Monica) **DONE**
7. Forward to Mayor re reponse to Megan Eno email May 7 "FS Correspondence & Future Projects" (Monica) **DONE**
8. Provide GPS location to USFS Megan Eno of an easy access closure site. (Tyler) **PENDING**
9. Draft proposal for restoration plan/mgt/park creation for town projects on open space - immediately the broadband infrastructure and water plant (John) **PENDING**

**Next meeting June 9, 2020**

a. Tentative - joint review of draft Master Plan with P&Z

b. Continued discussion of specific inclusions/exclusions for Open Space definitions, ie., ROW and allies

c. Restoration management plan for water plant area and broadband infrastructure

**Meeting notes**

* + 1. Town Manager Ken provided an overview of the 2020 road mtc objectives and reviewed work to date by Ground Pounders. Topics included Road caps, speed bumps, water valves, roadbase raking, road alignments, culverts. Discussed use of plastic speed bumps vs. 1/2 truckload of roadbase per bump. Plastic speed bumps difficult to position and keep in place. Roadbase can remain on road. Ken notes that at 200 trips/day qualifies a road for paving, a rate we reach in the summer. Discussed ROW specifications vs. current road widths. Note that ROW was vacated in Spring Gulch, date unknown. Ken listed the certifications, classes, publications, and other county road models (prefers La Plata vs. San Miguel) he has studied to create his plans, noting also that John Humphries has been a major contributor. Tyler indicated that there is a water valve site above the water plant that Ken was not aware of, they are to get together to find it. John asked how the deep ditches were to be filled, Ken replied that per Mike Kimball recommendations and would include compacting and backfilling with roadbase.
    2. Ken described intent to create a road maintenance guide this winter for use in perpetuity.
    3. Ken intends to author a November road plan capital improvement plan.
    4. Roadbase quality with weed seeds is an issue. Ken explains the needed balance between silt, clay, size & shape of rocks. Continues to research suppliers. Has just submitted current source used for weed seed analysis.
    5. Discussed whether ROW was open space. Open space does not provide for motorized vehicles, as provided by ROW. Alleys and ROW should perhaps be specifically included as open space concerns in the new Master Plan, as they impact the weed mgt efforts. Each building lot includes town ROW setbacks. All agreed that alleys and ROW require collaborative oversight by P&Z and by OEC. Currently open space is addressed/considered at the lot level. Further discussion tabled for next meeting.
    6. Discussed recent tree cutting complaint re Statsburg. This was a contiued discussion of development of rogue biking trails throughout the valley. Reluctance to bring to attention of USFS which will bring unwanted attention, peer pressure on valley residents, prohibit non residents, impact of trails to the Ophir experience balanced with residential objectives as expressed in numerous surveys. Determined that needs to be discussed at GA level to get direction. Whose purview? Ophir 3 Mile Plan, Colorado Statutes 13, USFS, San Miguel County Development Plan, County Trail Commission (local Dan Hehir a member? Matt Basham?). No discussion occurred to date that names any trail cutting participants.
    7. Discussed "Swamp Project". Results captured in email to Mayor.
    8. Discussed water quality site locations. Results captured in email to Mayor.
    9. Discussed gates. Results captured in email to Ken re Waterfall gate and to Mayor on pass gates.

**Relevant Notes from Staff 5/6/2020**

* Resident verbal complaint regarding tree-cutting on Statsburg trail.
* Town Mgr presented road mtc plan, including tree planting/watering.
* Post meeting - Mayor forwarded email from Megan Eno re "Swamp Project" and email from SMWC re water quality test sites.

**Immediate Goals with Probable Timeline:**

1. ~~Conduct survey (Nov) DONE~~
2. ~~Finalize a resolution template, to be used for open space projects, inclusive of development/maintenance/restoration/financing plans (Dec)~~
3. ~~Bike trail hearing (Feb 10)~~
4. ~~Review bike trail proposal against recognized surveys, ordinances, LUC, Master Plan (Mar 9)~~
5. ~~Prepare bike trail recommendation for presentation to February GA (Mar 9).~~
6. ~~Contribute to P&Z effort of drafting master plan re open space language (Jan - April)~~
7. ~~Review planting of approx 40 free trees planned for open space (Jan - April )~~
8. ~~Review town reseeding/management plan for plow-damaged areas (Jan - April)~~
9. Review funding of USFS Ophir Pass area gates/repair from open space funds (May)
10. Review broadband infrastructure installation for alignment to Open Space LUC (TBD)
11. Review water plant installation for alignment to Open Space LUC (TBD)
12. Review existing parks and potential parks for alignment to Park District ordinance 94-10 and to recognized surveys, ordinances, LUC, Master Plan (TBD)
13. Discuss recommendation for town-owned lots in Spring Gulch to become a park.