**OEC Meeting Minutes/Staff Report**

**June 6, 2020**

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

Zoom meeting

**Agenda:**

1. Change meeting to 1st Monday of month in OEC Charter
2. ~~Review OEC contribution to draft Master Plan~~ **TABLED**
3. Discuss town purview per Three Mile Plan (a Special District under Colorado Revised Statutes)
4. Review broadband infrastructure or water plant installation for alignment to Open Space LUC

**Action Items:**

1. Provide GPS location to USFS Megan Eno of an easy access closure site. (Tyler) **PENDING**
2. Draft resolution language for restoration plan/mgt/park creation for town projects on open space - immediately the broadband infrastructure and water plant and private lot W of 3rd St on Ophir Pass and new water tap below Unruh residence in open space(John) **PENDING**
3. Email Ken procedure to update OEC Charter to reflect 1st Monday of month to meet, prior to schedule Ophir Staff Meeting on the 1st Tuesday of month (Monica) **DONE**
4. Email to Ken to receive his inventory map of what town-owned lots are buildable (Monica ) **DONE**
5. Email to Ken for June 11 meeting w Ken re legal review for Three Mile Plan and details of gates request for USFS (Monica) **DONE**
6. Phone to Ken re purpose of locates on Ophir Pass, followup with county (Monica)**DONE**
7. Email to Ken re existence of $600 budget for county weed mgt (Monica)**DONE**
8. Based on 6/3 conversation with county Paul on pass with Monica, Ken is calling county now to stop any pending plan to mess with the beaver ponds. This can be considered town property and needs a plan as both sides of the road were destroyed by recent county action in same area. (Ken) **DONE**

**Next meeting July 6, 2020**

* Tentative - joint review of draft Master Plan with P&Z
* Continued discussion of specific inclusions/exclusions for Open Space definitions, ie., ROW and allies
* Inventory and recommend categorization of town-owned open space and land bank open space (including prioritization)
* Status of legal review of Ophir Three Mile Plan, Ophir Valley Wildlife and Conservation District and Service Plan. Relevant? Liabilities? Update? Decommission?
* Restoration management plan/protocol/budgets for past and current and future disturbances on open space ground
* Review new website re OEC info, inc. agendas and minutes posted, OHV map and info, includes resolutions, charters, ords..

**Meeting notes**

1. Consensus to change OEC meeting to 1st Monday of month procedure to edit charter
2. Review of last GA conversation re bike trail mtc/creation/tree cutting. Significant attendance by mtn bike user group. This was a discussion to air concerns over shared use social trails in the national forest. GA was followed by a small interest group, non-sponsored, to compare ideas and concerns about trail building and preserving the quiet solace of the valley. Mayor introduced idea of mindfulness which carried weight amongst all user types. There now exists an informal channel through which concerns and ideas can be discussed. John H voiced concern that trail entrances should not be obvious as to invite easy find (passing idea to trail representatives **pending** by Monica)
3. Discussed need to have legal review of Ophir Three Mile Plan, Ophir Valley Wildlife and Conservation District. These are special districts per C.R.S, predating transition of 1200+ acres to USFS. Is there any liability? Responsibility? Relevance within boundaries of USFS?
4. Mgr asked that we discuss horses, as pastures in valley being discussed. No purview per private property outside of Ophir. Recommend though that:
   1. Bring in certified weed-free hay only
   2. Mindfulness of shared trail us, including education re etiquette
   3. No use of town $ or labor to ready barns or fields or fences.
5. Would like to begin conversation with staff of gaining a public works fenced area in vicinity of water plant. This would house extra roadbase (in piles W of 3rd St on G Paul's property, plow blades, etc., removing them/gathering them in an appropriate area to avoid the destruction of restored/recovering ROW and open space seeding.
6. John H has call into Road & Bridges re the locates on the Ophir Pass. Is something being considered - makes no sense as to who or why, no utilities in the area.
7. We had consensus that an additional replacement USFS gate is needed above E Ophir. Was above Beresfords (this in addition to the Blix road gate already discussed with USFS). Needs to be moved farther E along STAR LANE, prior to obtuse road to the NW toward sweat lodge. Tyler, North Star Lode owner, would be happy to mark desired gate location. Several advantages of having this visual reference here... Also, there is still concern that the remaining gates have damaged locks/chains. Would also like icon-type signs as to what is allowed beyond gates and maybe a sign as to why gated (per USFS Travel Mgt Plan)
8. Is there a $600 weed control budget for the County to use within Town limits?
9. Want a west end sign that Ophir Pass is closed.

**Relevant Notes from Staff 6/2/2020**

* Mgr says Ophir Pass will not be plowed but let melt naturally, no current pressure from San Juan County. However, on 6/3, Monica saw county truck on pass who says it is being cleared right now. Mgr says will be working with town attorney to have pass closed until June 15 annually due to birthing dates, not to bring equipment up. Working on sign to post at west end of town re pass status
* Mgr to research purpose of locates on pass road
* Staff supports starting conversation about mtc. yard for public work use. Tied into inventory and categorization of open space lots
* Mgr wants to further discuss who is responsible for keeping Ophir Pass clean of TP, cans, camping trash, etc.

**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. Inventory and recommend categorization/prioritization of town-owned lots and landbank lots (open space)
13. Review existing parks and potential parks for alignment to Park District ordinance 94-10 and to recognized surveys, ordinances, LUC, Master Plan (TBD)
14. Discuss recommendation for town-owned lots in Spring Gulch to become a park.
15. ~~Horses in Ophir Valley (TBD)~~