**OEC Meeting Minutes/Staff Report**

**July 15, 2020**

Present: Monica Carey, Dick Unruh, Rhonda Claridge, Tyler Schultz

Town Hall meeting

**Agenda:**

1. Reverse decision to change meeting schedule from 2nd Monday (3 min)
2. Introduce San Miguel County Property Finder App (5 min)
3. Begin discussion of open space/land bank categorization & prioritization of town-owned lots (15 min)
4. Updates: "Outstanding Waters", Swamp adit closures, USFS removal of New Dominion cabin, town removal of "Eagle's Cabin", New Dominion cleanup, legal review of Three Mile Plan, gates on Ophir Pass (20 min)
5. Introduce new Ophir website (5 min)
6. ~~Continued discussion of SOP for projects on town-owned~~ ~~lots~~~~, ROW (10 min)~~ *TABLED*

**Action Items:**

1. Draft resolution/ord language to categorize lots - land bank, town-owned buildable, open space (town--owned non-buildable). to remove open space "zone" from LUC, to change the out of date LUC zoning map. To be reviewed next OEC and then shared with P&Z. (Monica) **PENDING**
2. Check with Ken re any existing SOP draft in progress re weed restoration for disturbed ground. (Monica) **PENDING**
3. Feedback to Clerk Sydney re town website (Monica) **DONE**
4. Email Status of gate discussion to Corinne (Monica) **DONE**
5. Communicate thoughts to staff prior to GA re Eagle cabin removal (monica) **PENDING**
6. Provide GPS location to USFS Megan Eno of an easy access closure site. (Tyler) **PENDING**
7. Draft resolution/SOP 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**

**Next meeting July 10, 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
* Continued discussion of Inventory and recommend categorization of town-owned open space and land bank open space (including prioritization)
* Discuss replacement where/how of Three Mile Plan, preserving intention and history
* Continued discussion of Restoration management plan/protocol/budgets for past and current and future disturbances on open space ground, depending on existance of SOP draft

**Meeting notes**

1. Decision to keep regular meeting date to 2nd Monday of the month. Discussed desire to be able to meet outside to avoid digital issues and closeness of inside meeting space.
2. Reviewed the San Miguel County Property Finder app. Reviewed the remaining inholdings in the valley, which are without access in Swamp.
3. Discussed desire of USFS to remove the New Dominion cabin. No OEC concern or recommendation. Otherwise, would like a Star Lane gate to include excluding this site from access.
4. Discussed Outstanding Waters. No OEC issue at this time pending more info from Corinne and/or further research by OEC members.
5. Discussion re attorney's review of Three Mile Plan. Need to find a way to preserve intention and history in new OEC mission statement, in Master Plan, through resolution that retires this set of documents? Updated draft in P&Z ownership at this time - must remove newly added overviews of Open Space program...
6. Discussed continuation of categorizing open space type lots through resolution draft and offering to P&Z for review. Addtionally, LUC incorrectly calls out an Open Space "zone" and the LUC zoning map is very out of date.
7. Discussion about pending GA item to discuss removal of Eagle's cabin on town property in vicinity of Barnett easement No OEC issue or concern re the removal in concept and no historical value. However, Tyler points out that the logistics are complicated by the change of the Howards Fork that now. Easement in the Barnett property is compromised and the Barnett bridge may be endangered. This info has been passed by Monica to Ken/Corinne as next GA is going to discuss this idea. Dick suggests waiting until winter and burning it down.
8. Ophir website was reviewed. OEC concerned that photos represent a "sell" and attraction and would like only historical photos on the site.

**Relevant Notes from Staff 7/6/2020**

* Staff permission to proceed directly with Town Attorney Steve Johnson re validity of Three Mile Plan and associated Ophir Valley Zone District and Ophir Valley Wildlife and Conservation District and Service Plan and Ophir Valley Park District. Documents dated from 1994, predating transition of acreage to USFS and the implementation of the SMC HCA. ( Note: the review has been completed and comments uploaded to OneDrive).
* Outstanding Waters offer from Mark Pearson San Juan Citizens Alliance. Corinne to find out more details, on surface sounds like a good opportunity to further protect.
* USFS wants to take down the New Dominion cabin. Staff finds no issue.
* USFS has issued draft Decision Memo re what has been called Swamp Project to close 3 adits in Nevada Gulch and Waterfall. Corinne and Sydney went on the site walk. Staff maintains that this is a useless project, but feel like we have provided all input we will be allowed and project will proceed. Staff takes exception to fact that the DRMS crew will evidently be "conversion/diversion (?)" kids. Corinne to find out the adult supervision ratio to kids, Ken thinks a 1 to 4 ratio would represent good supervision. Uploaded memo to OneDrive.
* Corinne reports no further discussion with USFS re gate restoration along Ophir Pass (Blix and Star Lane).

**Immediate Goals with Probable Timeline:**

1. ~~Conduct survey (Nov) DONE~~
2. ~~Finalize a resolution template, to be used for open space projecLets, 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)~~
16. ~~Discuss cleanup of Eagle cabin and at Henri's due to town complaints rec'd by Ken.~~