

## DEL MONTE FOREST PROPERTY OWNERS (DMFPO)

### HIKING AND EQUESTRIAN TRAILS COMMITTEE (HETC) MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 9, 2019 4:00 p.m.

Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD) Training Room

**Leadership Members present:** *DMFPO Board Members:* Bob Roland, Ned Van Roekel  
*Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC) Board Members:*  
Don Eastman, Kimberly Caneer  
*DMFPO Member:* Kelly Getreu

**Resource Members present:** *Pebble Beach Company (PBC):* Dawn Mathes  
*PBCSD:* Mike Niccum, General Manager  
*DMFC:* Director Jody Le Towt  
*OSAC:* Rick Verbanec, Chair

**Members present:** Richard Parrish

**Others Present:** Bruce and Judy Cowan, Kirsten Stember, Kathy Huff, Vanka

1. **Announcements** – Bruce and Judy Cowan were awarded the first in what will be on-going “Friends of the Trails” certificates given out by the HETC. The Cowan’s were acknowledged for their decades of recommending and monitoring significant Trail System improvements.
2. **Call to Order** – Chair Roland called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
3. **Acceptance/Modification of Agenda** – An item was added to the agenda by Member Caneer: Request by PBC to use Trail Map artwork for designing an 8x10 simplified trail map to be made available to Visitor Center guests upon request. There was consensus by the committee that map copyrights had become null and PBC should be allowed to use the artwork to design the smaller map if those who originally designed the larger map are acknowledged.
4. **Public Comment** – None
5. **Minutes** – There were no requested changes to the October 10, 2018 minutes presented.
6. **PBCSD/Cal Fire** – PBCSD General Manager, Mike Niccum reported the District board will consider additional funding of vegetative management throughout the Forest benefiting fire defense and forest health.
7. **Pebble Beach Company**
  - a. Ms. Mathes stated she would respond to the various agenda items that cover PBC interests.
  - b. Member Getreu reported in recent observations that there were very few trees down across trails. Kirsten Stember expressed concern that a form of Round Up was being applied to trail areas by PBC hired professionals without any signage set up to forewarn trail users. Ms. Mathes stated she would contact the Agricultural Commission to find out if Round Up has a lower toxicity level that does not require posting when it is applied.
8. **New Business**

**Visitor abuse of environmentally sensitive areas:** Chair Roland expressed concern regarding tourists accessing coastal rocks, disrupting the safety and habitat of wildlife. Per Ms. Mathes placement of a stake and threaded line fence in a pilot area on the coast side of the trail along 17 Mile Drive is undergoing PBC internal approval. The first pilot area considered is Bird Rock where nesting Blue Oyster Catcher birds are being disrupted; the second site considered is the turnout on the Pacific Grove side of Bird Rock; the third site under consideration is China Rock – more for safety than environmental sensitivity.

## 9. Old Business

**General Trails Monitoring:** Safety concerns and damage to trails from bicyclists remains an issue. These cyclists are very difficult to stop and reprimand.

Chair Roland and several other committee members requested there be “yield to equestrian crossing” signage installed on 17 Mile Drive at Dunes Road and at another horse road crossing in the area. Signs were also requested to be placed at the “four corners” horse crossing.

Vice Chair Getreu noted that the trail along Stevenson Drive by the new lots from Spyglass Grill to Spyglass Woods is disappearing and needs to be moved to the other side of the road.

**Casita Fence:** Mr. Le Towl advised that installation of a post and rail fence along Dunes Road across from the Casita awaits materials and labor from Shawn Casey.

**Sawmill Gulch/Green Trail Bridge:** Member Bruno reported that MPCC remains the lead agency having obtained necessary permits and is satisfied with the project agreement. Contractor selection will be made in the next two weeks. Construction will begin after the AT&T Pro-Am with estimated completion in two-three weeks. PBC has agreed to contribute more project funding.

**Equestrian route around Pt. Joe:** Is in process.

**10. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Laura Paxton*

Happy Trails to everyone in 2019!

The somewhat new Hiking-Equestrian Trail Committee (HETC) part of the Del Monte Forest Property Owners Association (DMFPOA) had a productive 2018. The chairman, Bob Roland who is also on the DMFPO Board and the Open Spaces Committee, has really done a fine job of helping us preserve our great trail system here in the forest. I'm serving as Co-Chair for Trails and am enjoying the opportunity to provide an Equestrian perspective to the effort.

Please come to the quarterly meetings held at the Community Service District board room [at 4:00 pm on Jan 9](#) :[April 10](#) :[July 10](#) and [Oct 9](#) for 2019. Please mark your calendars now!

A big thank you goes to Bart Bruno for masterminding getting a bridge approved over Sawmill Gulch near the Four Corners intersection. When the bridge is installed we will finally have the Green Trail open as a continuous circle trail around the forest. We have been without this for about 5 years or so. There will be a ribbon cutting when the bridge is open. Keep a lookout for this event.

Just about finished with the new trail off of the new road at Casitas de Lemos (Gingerbread House) on the way into Indian Village and the new Pebble Beach lots and homes. Equestrians are requested to use the trail not the paved road. Below photo with orange cone shows the trail down into a small wooded area which leads to the road crossing going to Indian Village Red Trail.

There is a manure fork and soon to be mounting block for equestrians to use if ones horse should poop on the road crossing. We hope to have split rail fencing up soon to delineate the riding trail and help everyone stay on track.

Once a month or more, Bob Roland and I have been going out with a trail clearing team from the Pebble Beach Company. ( Thank you Shaun Casey) These fellows with the proper equipment make short work of the stuff that needs to be cleared from the trails. Word has actually been getting back to us that you trail users are noticing a difference!

If you find something wrong please let me know so I can get it on my list. Surprisingly these last couple of storms have not knocked any trees over on the trails at this time.

Today Lee Gilbert and I rode about 10 miles and found one small area where dead wood knocked over 3 small live pines. Lee was able to upright the small trees and clear the trail. Yeah Lee!

Please do let us know when you find issues on the trails that need attention so we can address and report them quickly. We also have handy Trail Maps with grids so you can pinpoint problems.

Bottom photo is of Lee and me with our very trusty trail horses.

















See you at the January 9 meeting and out on our trails.

Kelly

[kgetreu@comcast.net](mailto:kgetreu@comcast.net)