

**Del Monte Forest Property Owners (DMFPO)  
Hiking and Equestrian Trails Committee (HETC) Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 13, 2021 4:00 p.m.  
Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD) Board Room/Zoom Videoconference**

**Leadership Members present:** *DMFPO Board Members:* Bob Ogle, Ned Van Roekel  
*Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC) Board Member:* Jeff Froke  
*DMFPO Member:* Kelly Getreu

**Resource Members present:** *Pebble Beach Company (PBC):* Dawn Mathes\*  
*Pebble Beach Community Services District:* Nick Becker, District Engineer  
*DMFC:* Ned Van Roekel  
*OSAC:* Rick Verbanec\*, Bob Ogle

**Members/Others Present:** Jenny Jacox\*, Kirsten Stemper \*denotes Zoom attendance

1. **Announcements** – There were no announcements.
2. **Call to Order** – Chair Ogle called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
3. **Acceptance/Modification of Agenda** – There were no requested changes to the agenda.
4. **Public Comment** – None
5. **Minutes** – It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the July 14, 2021 minutes.
6. **Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD)/Cal Fire**

District Engineer Nick Becker reported the goats are now gone from the forest; PBC and contracted mastication and fuel removal continues. There may need to be two herders with the goats next year to avoid the new law requiring one herder be paid for 24 hours on duty. Undergrounding overhead utility lines is proceeding along Forest Lake Road.
7. **Pebble Beach Company**
  - a. Dawn Mathes brought up for discussion an idea that came from the Conservancy to develop an education program for teachers and school children. Also, she and DMFPO Director Katie Spitz who has been leading weed pulling groups in the forest have been considering a project to design and install positive informative interpretive signs along trails to foster environmental awareness, stewardship and protection, and highlight unique forest species. Ms. Mathes noted the idea is in the very beginning stages and solicited any comments or feedback from HETC members. Member Jenny Jacox, familiar with the Safe Passages Program at Fort Ord, stated signs are located at trailheads there, raising awareness of such things as the impact of loose dogs and dog feces on open space habitats, in conjunction with program messaging: not punitive, not prescriptive, but 100% positive. Director Froke encouraged including a QR code in the messaging for access to more detailed information. Member Stemper supported interpretive signage and suggested including natural and cultural history to the extent possible, and stated a book series developed for Pebble Beach, such as the “The Images of History” depicting surrounding areas, would enhance the hiking experience and be helpful for leading hikes. Ms. Mathes nominated Ms. Stemper, Ms. Jacox, and Director Froke to develop location, content, and partnering with DMFPO and DMFC in the effort. Director Froke requested the “look” of interpretive signage follow the look of the new DMFC signs.

Director Froke requested Micah and Dawn meet with him on the Coast Trail and look at cave-ins that need to be prevented with Morris fencing.

- b. Kelly Getreu reported two trees down on trails, the Trail Steps need to be replaced, and two areas need sight-line clearing. The bridge over Sawmill Gulch has rotting boards that need attention immediately. Director Froke will be meeting with Chris Dahlhamer, Superintendent of MPCC and will advise him of the issue. Ms. Stemper noted the walking path on the ocean side of China Rock headed north approaching the Pt. Joe gates edges the roadway creating vehicle and e-bike hazards: Ms. Mathes agreed to set a time for herself, Kirsten, Micah, Shawn, and Dahlhamer to meet at the sight to assess mitigation options.

At the Spyglass Grill, the trail goes along the side of the grill building where food carts are parked, doors are opened, and air shooters are used, startling the horses. Currently equestrians reroute through the parking lot. Kelly and Kirsten will assess for trail reroute options.

Ms. Mathes requested she be contacted when high priority areas for invasive species eradication are found in an effort to better prioritize trail work days.

Clarity of the Blue Trail route is needed behind the new houses at Poppy Lane. Micah had assessed this need approximately 6 months ago; Ms. Mathes will remind him of the need. Chair Ogle will move forward with volunteers to update markers in the Poppy Lane area.

Ms. Stemper reported along the Spyglass trail where it dips at the descent to Indian Village approaching the maintenance yard, boulders have been piled obliterating the trail and forcing horses to the road.

Ms. Jacox noted that the trail coming off the bridge across Sawmill Gulch along MPCC has overgrowth again. Ms. Getreu noted areas along the trail at Spanish Bay also have overgrowth.

Ms. Getreu will report to Shawn Casey all of the maintenance needs discussed.

## **8. New Business**

Ms. Jacox recommended use in general of the iNaturalist phone application where she has set up *DMF Project* that catalogs all species that have been observed in the forest, native v. invasive plants, and other flora and fauna statistics. She will email the particulars to the DMFPO office. Another useful application is Litterati to report types and locations of litter and droppings for potential sourcing.

## **9. Old Business**

It was agreed that the Safe Passages Program elements would be folded into the interpretive sign development.

There was extensive discussion of the issue of mountain bikes using the trails and establishing unauthorized trails, mountain bikes being modified with electric motors, and the significant hazard of e-Bikes on forest roads. In the wake of the leaders of a group of e-bikers encouraging the blasting of bike horns at oncoming equestrians, PBC legal reached out by letter to all area bike rental companies

cautioning that the companies are fully responsible for adverse rider behavior and could be banned from entering the gates. There was positive feedback received that companies desired to regulate behaviors and politely conduct themselves. The authority of PBC to ban e-Bikes in Pebble Beach is being argued between attorneys and the Coastal Commission.

Ms. Jacox reported seeing during the Coastwalk trees laid across trails one after the other at Redonda Real to Pescadero Canyon apparently intentionally to harm mountain bikers.

**10. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

**Next Meeting Wednesday, January 12, 2022**

*Respectfully submitted by Laura Paxton*