

**DRAFT REPORT**

Trails & Open Space Committee  
October 5, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members**

Karen Aaron Scott Bauhs <del>VJ Bonnard</del>	Richard Bothwell Gayle Dana Lorna Dobrovolny	Livia Quan Ellen Raynor Graham Reid	Peter Sawyer <del>Charlene Simmons</del> <del>Julie Thornton</del>
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**Staff Lead & Liaisons**

John Groom (Staff) Leslie Loveland (Staff)	Benjamin Levine (Board)	
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**Subcommittee Members and Guests**

Nan Meek (Emeritus & Equestrian)	Carol Lindsay (Perspective Committee Member) Amy Porter (Member)
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**I. Opening Business (3:00)** Call to Order and Quorum Call - The Committee had a quorum

**II. Discussion/Action: TOS Leadership and Committee Membership (3:10)**

Election of Vice Chair: Lorna Dobrovolny was elected Vice Chair by consensus.

**III. Discussion: Summer 2022 Trails Management Issues and Concerns (3:20)** John Groom discussed the following:

1. Boardwalk at Alder Creek is almost complete (the short section of the Alder Creek Trail will then be closed).
2. A contractor will be coming in to cut all of the dead trees along the Nature Loop Trail. The Nature Loop Trail will be closed during the daytime. (closing will begin at 7:00 am). It will probably take about 2 weeks to complete. There are approximately 200-250 dead trees to take down.
3. Toxic algae - The owner of the dog that died is a veterinarian and is 100% confident that it was the algae that killed the dog. The Communications department will get information out. They will take the Nature Loop closure as time to get the information out. The Staff needs to be careful as to how they share the message. The water will be tested for the toxic algae. Staff will be

following up with information about leash restrictions on the Nature Loop and the danger involved. Small children are also at risk. Staff will work with legal as to what signage is necessary to get the message across.

IV. **“Victories” from the Trails Master Plan.** Committee went in alphabetical order to state what they thought were the biggest ‘vicories from the 2022 Trails Master Plan Initials are in parentheses after the Committee member who made the comment

- Broad Representation from the Committee in reviewing the Master Plan (KA)
- Expansion of the trails (particularly neighborhood trial heads) in increasing the value (intrinsic and extrinsic) is huge. (SB)
- More emphasis on events - running and equestrian particularly (SB)
- TMP recommended the first Class 1 Bike Trail that will connect Tahoe Donner amenities. (GD)
- The TMP has recommended a trail system on steroids (GD)
- To have Benjamin on board with his knowledge and expertise (LD)
- (LD) Trail Staff (LD)
- (LD) Non non-wheeled user groups are starting to have a stronger voice. (LD)
- (LQ) Document answers how we keep the culture and civility of the trails, branding expectations. (LD)
- (LQ) Introduced zones in a non-treating way to the community (LQ)
- (LQ) Commitment to all age groups (LQ)
- (LQ) Hats off to John Groom and Design Workshop for the work that they did. (LQ)
- (ER) Completing the TMP is a win in itself. (ER)
- (ER) It shows that we have a well functioning diverse Committee. (ER)
- (ER) Excited to have a staff and the patience that the Staff has shown to the Committee and Community has been outstanding. (ER)
- (GR) Seamless transition of multiple staff and Committee members. (GR)
- (GR) Quality of the output with the consultants on the TMP (GR)
- (GR) Establishing appropriate guidance on eBikes (GR)
- (RB) The process and the diversity of views of the Committee and to come to consensus was impressive. (RB)
- (RB) Quality of the Staff (RB)
- (PS) Conification of our “Public Use” responsibilities. (PS)
- (PS) Emphasis of designated trails, areas, and zones. (PS)
- (PS) Emphasis on Class 1 Bike Trails and Adaptive Trails. (PS)

Benjamin stated that it was a major victory to get the plan out to the membership on October 4, 2022. Carol Lindsay echoed the plan was amazing

V. **Review of 2022 Task List.** The Committee reviewed the 2022 Task List with the goal of creating a 2023 Tentative Task List. Ideas and Changes are shown in the **“VI. Preliminary 2023 Draft Task List.”**

Benjamin Levine reminded us that the Task List should primarily fall out of the Management and Implementation Plan of the TMP which was produced by Staff and the Board. He spoke of an initiative to increase a sense of the value that members derive from the Association (events and community fit into this).

## 2022 Task List

1. ***A and B have been completed C is ongoing*** Work collaboratively with staff to support completion of the Trails Master Plan (“Plan”), with Board final approval anticipated in 2022. This task includes, but is not limited to:
  - A. Advising and working collaboratively with staff and their consultant(s) to complete the Plan and prepare it for Board approval.
  - B. Working collaboratively with staff on the member outreach component of the Plan project.
  - C. Advising and working collaboratively with staff to support post-Plan adoption implementation.
  
2. ***Almost Completed*** Assist and advise staff as needed with interim planning, policy, and communications prior to the Plan’s completion and approval.
  
3. ***Ongoing*** Work with the staff, the Board, and the Finance Committee to support sufficient funding for the stewardship, maintenance, and improvement of Tahoe Donner’s land-holdings and trail system. This task includes, but is not limited to:
  - A. Participation in Tahoe Donner’s annual budget workshop process.
  - B. ***Look at this for the future*** Review the Association’s Replacement Reserve Fund schedule as it pertains to land management concerns, and recommend changes, updates, and/or additions as warranted.
  
4. ***Ongoing*** Work with staff to adapt the US Forest Service’s “Trail Management Objectives” classification system for implementation in Tahoe Donner by the Land Management Department.
  
5. ***Ongoing*** Work with staff to promote more carbon-neutral land management practices in Tahoe Donner.

6. **Ongoing with Changes - Working with Covenants Committee** Cooperate and collaborate with other Tahoe Donner committees as warranted on issues of mutual concern. This task includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Working with the Long-Range Planning Committee on active-transportation and circulation planning. This includes identifying and benchmarking local, regional, and national planned communities in which amenities are connected via Class 1 paved trails and/or native surface trails.
- B. **May have already been addressed** Ensuring that the LRPC is aware of the employee housing challenges affecting Tahoe Donner's land management.
- C. Working with the Finance Committee as noted in 3 above. **John Groom suggested that he lets us know what projects he has proposed and we can help him prioritize those projects**

7. **Ongoing** With a special focus on opportunities where mission alignment between other land holders and Tahoe Donner may create opportunities for mutual benefit, work with staff to identify open space acquisitions, rights-holding interests, and/or other real property opportunities that may be advantageous to the Association.

8. **Ongoing** Work with staff, clubs, trail users, and other bodies to support increased member stewardship of Tahoe Donner's trails and open spaces.

9. **Ongoing** Organize member outreach and member events to encourage positive member involvement with the committee and the Association's Land Management Department.

10. **Ongoing** Post-Plan adoption, review the TOS charter for consistency with the Plan, and recommend changes to the charter if necessary.

Benjamin suggested that this year the Task List be boiled down to 4 or 5 items. He has some suggestions as to how to do this. Work with John with what is achievable.

**VI. Preliminary 2023 Draft Task List.** The Committee when over the List making recommendations for what should be in the 2023 Task List

1. **Ongoing with changes** Work collaboratively with staff to support completion of the Trails Master Plan ("Plan"), with Board final approval anticipated in 2022. This task includes, but is not limited to:

- ~~A. Advising and working collaboratively with staff and their consultant(s) to complete the Plan and prepare it for Board approval.~~
  - ~~B. Working collaboratively with staff on the member outreach component of the Plan project.~~
  - C. Advising and working collaboratively with staff to support post-Plan adoption implementation.
2. ~~Assist and advise staff as needed with interim planning, policy, and communications prior to the Plan's completion and approval.~~

Assist and advise staff as needed with implementation of and communications subsequent to the Plan's completion and approval.

3. **Ongoing** Work with the staff, the Board, and the Finance Committee to support sufficient funding for the stewardship, maintenance, and improvement of Tahoe Donner's land-holdings and trail system. This task includes, but is not limited to:
- A. Participation in Tahoe Donner's annual budget workshop process.
  - B. Review the Association's Replacement Reserve Fund schedule as it pertains to land management concerns, and recommend changes, updates, and/or additions as warranted.
4. **Ongoing** Work with staff to adapt the US Forest Service's "Trail Management Objectives" classification system for implementation in Tahoe Donner by the Land Management Department.
5. **Ongoing** Work with staff to promote more carbon-neutral land management practices in Tahoe Donner.
6. **Ongoing with NEW A and E and A-C moved to B-D** Cooperate and collaborate with other Tahoe Donner committees as warranted on issues of mutual concern. This task includes, but is not limited to:
- A. Working with the Covenants Committee to renew and streamline dog and equestrian policies and communicate these to the membership and the public.
  - B. Working with the Long-Range Planning Committee on active-transportation and circulation planning. This includes identifying and benchmarking local, regional, and national planned communities in which amenities are connected via Class 1 paved trails and/or native surface trails.

- C. *May have already been addressed* Ensuring that the LRPC is aware of the employee housing challenges affecting Tahoe Donner's land management.
  - D. *New* Work with Staff to prioritize trails projects.
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- 7. *Ongoing Where to we got with this?* With a special focus on opportunities where mission alignment between other land holders and Tahoe Donner may create opportunities for mutual benefit, work with staff to identify open space acquisitions, rights-holding interests, and/or other real property opportunities that may be advantageous to the Association.
  - 8. *Ongoing* Work with staff, clubs, trail users, and other bodies to support increased member stewardship *and Public safety* of Tahoe Donner's trails and open spaces. *With special emphasis for 2023*
  - 9. *Ongoing* Organize member outreach and member events to encourage positive member involvement with the committee and the Association's Land Management Department. *With special emphasis on 2023*
  - 10. *Work with Land Management Department on short and long-range planning in regards to winter trails (outside of the Tahoe Donner Cross Country Ski Center.*
  - 11. *Ongoing* Post Trails and Open Space Master Plan adoption, review the TOS charter for consistency with the Plan, and recommend changes to the charter if necessary.

## **VI. Personal Report Review**

Personnel Reports are now being used differently than in the past.

The preamble is probably no longer necessary. The Committee has the option of giving a Personnel Report, so that the Committee can.

John Groom stated that getting a mobility device user on the Committee will be very difficult to fill.

The Committee discussed that the Personnel Report can go to the Board (Nov. 1 Deadline). We may just want a 'qualified applicant.' It is a communication to the Board about recruitment. It is a signal to the Board and the membership as to what types of members the Committees are looking for. The Committee did a survey recently to see what interests were covered by Committee members. The first two bullet points were meant to fill the needs.

The Committee discussed what needs to be in the Personnel Report and it was proposed that we submit the Personnel Report with the second bullet point removed.

**VII. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings**

Committee Member Appreciation Reception on Friday, October 28 at 6:00 pm at ACAC  
Special Board Meeting at 10:30 am on Wednesday, November 2 focusing on the Trails Master Plan  
TOS Meeting is 3:00 pm on Wednesday, November 2

**VIII. Meeting Adjournment.** No Objections, the meeting was adjourned.