

## Trails & Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes DRAFT

March 5, 2025 @ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Northwoods Clubhouse Mezzanine Room & Zoom  
(all agenda times are tentative and subject to change)

### Committee Members

<del>Karen Aaron</del> VJ Bonnard Richard Bothwell	<del>David Cahill</del> Gayle Dana Eric Lawrence	Carol Lindsay Kevin O'Neil Livia Quan	Graham Reid Peter Sawyer Julie Thornton
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### Staff, Staff Leads, & Liaisons

Denise Gauney (Board) John Groom (Staff)	Laura Lindgren (Liaison) Leslie Loveland (Staff)	Annie Rosenfeld (GM)
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### Guests

Joey Cañas	Jennifer Gomez	Ellen Raynor
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### I. Opening Business (3:06 pm): *Peter Sawyer*

- **Call to Order/Quorum Call:** *Peter Sawyer*
- **Member Comments:** There were no member comments.
- **Comments by the Committee Chair:** Peter Sawyer did not comment.
- **Report from the Liaison to Tahoe Donner's Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC):**  
Laura Lindgren reported that the LRPC is involved in tree major projects
  1. 10-20 year plan based on member surveys
  2. The form of the next member survey
  3. 10-20 year work plan
- **Report from the Tahoe Donner Board Liaison:** Denise Gauney shared with the Trails and Open Space Committee that the board is feeling uncertain because of the Federal Government's DOGE program and what that might do to forest management in the area. She stated that most of the Measure T funding is secure and she noted the accomplishment of the Measure T Citizen's Oversight Committee. She addressed current voting rules and stated that they do not include changes to electronic voting. She relayed to the committee that Nevada County Office of Emergency Services presented to the board and that Truckee Fire and the OES are on the same page. The board discussed a 3rd egress for evacuation and hired a consultant to help in this effort. There are plans to do fuel reduction further than 10' off the road on both Northwoods Blvd. and Alder Creek Road for safer evacuation and emergency services access. Staff is currently awaiting feedback from insurance companies regarding fuel reduction in open spaces. TTSA funds are available to proceed on the Class 1 Bike Path from the Trout Creek Trail to the Alder Creek Adventure Center. She also reported that the Downhill Ski Lodge is 6 weeks behind schedule due to initial soil problems, but that they expect to get back on schedule soon and that the Marina deck project is finished. Tahoe Donner has hired a new Director of Food and Beverage, Mike Peters.
- **December 4 & 18, 2024 and January 7, 2025 Minutes** were approved by consensus.

**II. Trail and Open Space Work Update (3:21 pm):** John Groom shared that Forestry will now be clearing some roads back to 23 feet as recommended by the Forest Service. Tahoe Donner has also secured a USFS grant of \$86,000 to do work around Tahoe Donner but are unsure at present if the funds or personnel will be available. Forestry has also secured a grant to do defensible space work from Bermgarten down to Interstate 80.

**III. Trails Implementation Plan Update and Discussion (3:30 pm):** Leslie Loveland shared with the committee that Tahoe Donner has purchased electric chainsaws and pole saws. We have also been approached by the State Park in Auburn to use our dog poop signs. She is also working on publicising the open positions in the Trails Department for the summer work season.

In presenting her work on the DRAFT 2025 Trails Implementation Plan (TIP), Leslie shared with us that the TIP will take a look at the planned development of the trails over the next 10 years, which is both difficult and complex. Tahoe Donner has hired a GIS (Geographic Information System) specialist, Joey Cañas to help. They still need to do a GPS (Global Positioning System) survey of every road and trail in Tahoe Donner including the Donner Lake Rim Trail, the Trout Creek Trail and the trails in the Armstrong Tract. Land Management and Trails are partnering with the Truckee Donner Land Trust and Forest Service to connect Tahoe Donner and Land Trust trails. They are also building a story map for all trails and roads. It is potentially 3 years out before a new trail can be built. Leslie showed the committee a web map based on GIS. It has an attribute table for every project from 2025-2035. This will be accessible on TD website. Using this document, Land Management and Trails will be able to create a maintenance plan which will include when it was built and maintained to create a TMO (Trails Management Objective).

**IV. February Equestrian Listening Session Debrief (4:30 pm):** The Equestrian Consultant met with the equestrian subcommittee on February 24, 2025. Peter Sawyer shared with the Trails and Open Space committee that safety is the biggest concern of the Equestrian Subcommittee Members. The Consultants advised them that both the equestrian community and mountain bike users need to give something up in the Trails Implementation Plan in order to keep the trails safe for all users. The Equestrian Subcommittee discussed their feeling that the equestrian community needs a bigger purpose and larger connection with the Tahoe Donner community due to the fact that not many Association members use the Equestrian Center at this time.

Unresolved issues include the continued presence of the Flying Squirrel trail, enforcement of rules, etiquette education, and unleashed dogs. The members of the equestrian subcommittee also expressed a desire to park and stay in their RV horse trailers for overnight security at the facility.

John Groom addressed the issue of the Flying Squirrel trail, saying that the trail is going to stay, but there may be a reroute of the lower section away from the Equestrian Center.

**V. Celebrate Trails Day Discussion (4:40 pm):** - Peter Sawyer reminded the committee that it is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, on the Trout Creek Trail and that he is still looking for volunteers.

**VI. Invitation to the Horseshoes and Handlebars event in Grass Valley on March 15 (4:45 pm):**  
Peter Sawyer suggested that this would be a good event for committee members to attend. He stated that John Groom was planning on going and that perhaps there would be a way to carpool to the event.

**VII. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm** by consensus