



Trails and Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Hansel Mailboxes / East Perimeter Trail

Committee Members:

Karen Aaron (absent)
VJ Bonnard (absent)
Richard Bothwell (absent)
David Cahill (present)
Gayle Dana, Vice Chair (present)
Eric Lawrence (absent)
Carol Lindsay (present)
Kevin O'Neil (present)
Livia Quan (present)
Graham Reid, Vice Chair (present)
Peter Sawyer, Chair (present)
Julie Thornton (absent)

Staff / Liaisons:

John Drum - Membership Outreach Coordinator (in person)
Denise Gauny - Board Liaison (absent)
John Groom - Director of Land Management (present)
Ben Gwerder - Head Forester (in person)
Laura Lindgren - Long Range Planning Committee Liaison (absent)
Leslie Loveland - Trails Manager (present)
Jake (Louis) Pare - Forester (in person)
Lindsay Ryan - Forester (in person)

Guests:

Benjamin Levine (Board Chair)
Tomi Landis
Jim MacNamara
Nancy Nelson
Ellen Raynor



1. Call to Order / Quorum Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm with seven committee members present, constituting a quorum.

2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the April 1, 2026 meeting were approved as presented by consensus after three corrections were made by the Chair.

3. Member Comments

No member comments

4. Comments by the Committee Chair,

No comments by the Committee Chair

5. Committee Reports

Laura Lindgren (LRPC) and Denise Gauny (BOD) not present to present reports

6. The Trails and Open Space Committee participated in a tour of the Forest Service logging operation along the East Perimeter Trail.

There was a demonstration and explanation of the use of a device to measure the DBH (diameter at breast height) of trees. This figure can be converted to the basal area of trees per acre.

Key considerations for fire safety were discussed, suggesting retaining between 50 and 125 square feet per acre of basal tree area is desired. The lower the basal area, the higher the fire resilience. Highest resilience in mixed conifer and Jeffery pine stands is 50 square feet per acre with optimal tree spacing of 10-35 feet per tree.

7. Next Meeting

The next TOS committee meeting will be held June 3, 2026. It will be a field tour of the Euer Valley Phase I and Phase II projects, leaving from the Alder Creek Adventure Center. There will be no video or Zoom.

8. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.