

Town of Silver City Trails & Open Space Committee Regular Meeting Record

Wednesday, December 17th, 2025, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (MDT)

Members Present

Harry Browne
Bob Schiowitz
Marion MacDonald
Bruce McKinney
Amy McLane
Patricia Stoller

Others Present

Jacqui Olea
Susan Mittlestadt
Vicky Toney
Emily Hickle
Joe Hutto

Members Absent

Martha Egnal

Call to Order 5:31 pm

Approval of Agenda

Amy moves, Patricia seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input N/A

Approval of Minutes – November 19th, 2025 Regular Meeting and December 8th, 2025 Special meeting

Bob moves, Amy seconds. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports-

Ms. Vicky Toney requests approval of the committee to patrol portions of the trails. Due to individuals leasing portions of their land for the San Vicente trail, there are reports of off-leash dogs pestering their animals.

The committee had proposals:

- Using signs to denote private property
- Adopting hours for Open Spaces
 - Hours may be limited from dawn to dusk
- Updating regulations in the annual Land Use Code Update in November

The committee had questions as well:

- How would this be enforced?
- How would the prevention of after-hours use take place?

Ms. Jacqui Olea then introduced the New Community Development Director, Ms. Susan Mittelstadt. The committee expressed excitement for the new addition while appreciating the work Ms. Olea did for the committee.

Committee Reports-

Bob Schiowitz-

Bob worked with GRIP to put up signs at the trailhead on Mountain View Rd. He also removed the outdated fire restriction signs left up. Bob spent time putting up more signs around the waterworks building, as well as signs along portions of the Silva Creek trail where frequent flooding occurs.

Old Business-

Market St. Trailhead Improvements

No new progress reported. Bob's recommendation for the trail builder is out of town. The previously approved plans were sent to staff. However, the Community Development Department will look internally for the capacity to initiate plans, as trail building will require additional resources. Current quotes for new signs are too high for grant money. New quotes will be necessary to move forward.

Proposed Pinos Altos Trail

The committee discussed the easements required for the trail to be built as well as the process of acquiring the easements. Bruce recommended contacting a property owner he knows along the trail to acquire an easement.

Adding San Vicente Trailheads to Google Maps

Committee members reported their inability to update via Google Maps, town officials may be able to continue this project.

Status of trailhead kiosk signage improvements

Bruce and others within the town of Silver City are working to move the trail kiosks. To acquire more, the town will need new quotes. As the grant money available for this project would not cover costs.

Status of Fairway Drive Trail access

Due to the private property owner closing access to a vital easement to the Fairway Drive trail. The town may need to consider creating a new trail. The property owner did not appear to be amenable to reopening the access easement to the public.

Status of Scott Park Trail Head and motorized vehicle access

Reports of trail goers moving rocks, multiple committee members voiced concern of any motorized vehicles having access.

New Business

NM DOT proposed bike/ped improvements

Amy presented the information shared with her from the New Mexico Department of Transportation's recent public exhibit on the proposed updates to the HWY 180 and Hudson St intersection, as well as the HWY 180 corridor from the intersection to Santa Clara.

- Bob – asked for more information on the juniper St. access closing with the new updates
- Bruce – asked about the State funding, and the length of time it would take to complete
 - Susan – offered her experience thus far with the DOT and shared her interpretation of the plans
- Vicky – asked when the public input would end
 - Amy responded that January 12th is designated as the final day.

Spring Street Trail Head Plan Review

Joe presented his case to the committee, in which he requested that the town relinquish its property rights to the right-of-way easement and the easement currently being used for the trailhead access off Spring Street, which runs along his property.

- Jacqui – The process of vacation is different for a right-of-way vs. an easement. If the committee wished to vote on the subject, it would only be on the easement for tail access. Furthermore, the committee would need to recommend a new trailhead location to access Boston Hill off of Spring Street.
- Amy – asked if the trail head access would be inhibited by the easement vacation
- Susan- shared public input she received
- Harry – asked the committee to recommend a new trailhead location after the site visit on the 8th of December took place

Bruce made a motion to recommend to the town council to move the trailhead to the west side of the fenced spring street parking area, moving it behind the fence.

Amy amended the motion to include the provision of keeping access open until new trail head access is complete. A debate ensued, and the committee discussed the cost of new trailhead development.

Joe offers to help offset the costs of developing and moving the trailhead location should the town council accept his proposal to vacate both the right of way and the access easement. And explained the process of vacation with the committee's role outlined in the recommendation to or against in a Town Council meeting.

The Chair tabled the discussion for the next meeting.

Adjournment 7:06 pm