



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee  
January APPROVED Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021  
2:00 PM  
**ONLINE MEETING**  
Public Meeting Room / Eagle Town Hall  
200 Broadway  
Eagle, CO**

*This agenda and the meetings can be viewed at [www.Townofeagle.org](http://www.Townofeagle.org).*

**MEETING ACCESS PUBLIC WIFI - TOEG – townofeagle2019**

This will be a Zoom Meeting, the link can be found here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83049260027>  
Meeting ID: 830 4926 0027

**CALL TO ORDER**

Call to order at 2:04pm  
Lizzy Owens Absent

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES**

Motion to approve the December minutes by Wescoatt, second by Hoban. Motion passes unanimously.

**DISCUSSION**

2:10pm (5 min) Finalization of Bylaws and Committee Goals – Secretary nomination

-Ernest nominated Hoban to Secretary, nomination accepted.

-Motion made by Ernest for secretary nomination of Hoban, second by Bartnik. Motion passes unanimously.

-Motion by Wescoatt to finalize the Committee bylaws and Committee goals as written with the addition of two objectives: 1) to protect Eagle's rural and agricultural character 2) to conserve agriculture and green space between the towns of Eagle and Gypsum and Eagle and Wolcott. Second by Bartnik. Motion passes unanimously.

2:15pm (35 minutes) Seasonal Trail Closure Discussion

*Current seasonal trail closure signage assessment*

-Committee members and staff have been noticing evidence of compliance issues with seasonal trail closures this year.

-Current wildlife closure signage is somewhat misleading and needs additional language to help with education and compliance.

-The Committee approved the fabrication of new signage to help with wildlife closure education at all TOE trailheads.

-The signage should include:

1. The phrases “currently closed” and “to all user groups and/or human activity.”
2. Signage should provide the *why* for wildlife closures.
3. New signage should identify open trails – point recreationists to where they *can* go instead.

-Signage should be fabricated and posted as soon as possible.

-The Committee suggested that trail information should be readily available on all Town of Eagle outreach platforms and accessible at the visitor center.

-What opportunities could be available to work with Brian Hall on outreach for the Eagle Outside website and possibly an Eagle trails app?

-A pamphlet that includes all Open Space and wildlife closure information would be helpful for distribution.

#### *Arroyo Trailhead winter management – bathrooms and parking*

-Closing the trailhead parking lot would help reinforce wildlife trail closures in the area and assist with compliance.

-Recreationists do use the trailhead as a halfway point on the paved recreation paths. It could be beneficial to keep the restrooms open and maintained at the trailhead.

**-Motion to close the Arroyo Trailhead parking lot during the wildlife closure period and post additional signage addressing wildlife closures at all TOE trailheads by Wescoatt, second by Bailey. Motion passes unanimously.**

#### *Enforcement and educational options for seasonal trail closures*

-Police Chief Joe Stauffer gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the police department’s past involvement with wildlife closures and potential future opportunities to continue this partnership.

-Stauffer’s goal is to focus on education first with enforcement as a last resort.

-There are some logistical challenges with ticketing for wildlife closure violations.

-Stauffer said he can allocate a squad car to park at the closed trailhead as an outreach tool.

-Stauffer liked VVMTA’s Trailhead Ambassador Program and thought people would be more likely to listen to volunteers than a guy with a badge.

#### *County Road & Bridge update and Seasonal closure policy*

-Eagle County Road and Bridge manages the northern gate on Bellyache Road. They are supportive of adaptive trail openings in that area, but they might need an official policy approved by the BOCC. Brian will follow up.

### 2:50pm (15 min) Town of Eagle GOCO Resilient Communities grant involvement

-Ernest introduced VVMTA's Trail Conservation Crew proposal in partnership with Eagle County.

-VVMTA will be applying for grant funding from GOCO's Resilient Communities grant program to hire 4 full-time seasonal crew members. The crew will be available to assist the Town of Eagle with trail maintenance, education, and other stewardship needs.

-The Committee discussed the possibility of including an ask for funding restrooms at the Haymaker trailhead in this grant. Similar grant requests in nearby communities have been successful with this grant opportunity.

-However, the Committee thought the ask for a restroom would likely be premature from this grant. The type of restroom desired, the location, and how it will tie into Town sewer, water, and electric needs to be identified first.

-TOE will write a letter of support for VVMTA's GOCO grant request. The Trail Conservation Crew will be a very beneficial resource for the Open Space and Trails program.

### 3:05pm (15 min) Town of Eagle E-Bike Policy Discussion

-E-bikes are currently not permitted on non-motorized natural surface trails managed by the Town.

-TOE Open Space program considered several factors before determining this policy. Amount of use already occurring on trails, additional trail maintenance concerns from E-bikes, and safety concerns with how fast E-bikes can travel were some of the top issues evaluated.

-In addition, the main reason for the determination to prohibit E-bikes on TOE trails was because most of our trails very quickly enter lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM").

-At a national level, the BLM has classified E-bikes as a motorized use, and therefore, they have not permitted E-bikes on non-motorized trails.

-However, the new BLM E-bike rule that just took effect in December 2020 may provide some greater flexibility for the BLM to work with communities that have a desire to increase opportunities for E-bikes on non-motorized trails.

-This conversation would need to start with BLM. The BLM retains the ability to deny any requests that do not support their travel management goals.

-Council has expressed an interest in revisiting this topic. After staff gets a better understanding of Council's intention, this discussion will continue at the Committee level.

### 3:20pm (10 min) Future Agenda Items/new business

-The Eagle County Wildlife Roundtable

-TOE Open Space Master Plan RFP

**Motion to ADJOURN at 3:31 by Wescoatt, seconded by Bartnik. Motion passes unanimously.**