

EMC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: December 2, 2019

Facilitator: Nicki McCullough

Time: 7:00 pm

In Attendance

Helen Evans
Gerry Evans
Nancy Kirner
John Kirner

Tom Lasater
Nicki McCullough
Steve Ralph

Agenda

- Game Camera Status
- Purple Air Monitors
- Signs
- Road Classification
- Next Steps

Discussion

Game Camera Status – Nicki provided committee members with a chart showing the results of the game camera installed in the month of October, 2019. It showed a significant increase in the weekly number of trucks during hunting season (from about 15 to 40). She said the plan was to reinstall the game camera during bicycle season and also to move it to Homestead Road during hunting season in 2020. Steve Ralph suggested closing the Highland gate for one week during hunting season next year and monitoring the results on Homestead Road. There was also discussion about putting up a no hunting, no through access sign during hunting season.

Purple Air - Nancy Kirner reported on what she learned about air monitors. The ones she researched cost about \$229 (plus tax and shipping). She also contacted Liz at Methow Valley Citizens Council (MVCC). While MVCC could not fund the purchase or maintenance of a Purple Air monitor in Edelweiss, Liz was very supportive of the idea and said that they can provide guidance on the placement, use, trouble shooting and data retrieval of any air monitors installed in Edelweiss. Nancy said that the monitors can measure dust as well as smoke. Nancy said ideally she would like EMC to purchase at least two monitors for Edelweiss.

Nicki said that she and her husband are interested in putting up a monitor at their house on Elderberry Road. She said their house is far enough from traffic dust was not an issue but the data could be useful for comparison to air quality on Highland and Homestead that are known to have dust issues. She said they would be willing to fund and manage their own air monitor. The Crockett's volunteered to have a monitor at their place near the beginning of Highland past the Homestead Road intersection. Steve Ralph also expressed interest in having a monitor at his place near the intersection of Quaking Aspen and Highland Road. There was also discussion about having a monitor along Homestead Road. Jerry offered his place but it does require Wi-Fi, electricity and should ideally be erected near the road in a protected area. It was agreed that Nicki would report to the board at their January meeting about having the EMC fund two monitors, their locations yet to be determined.

Signs – Nicki reviewed the signage approved at the last meeting which included the green Entrance Sign that said - private community, no trespassing, speed limit 15 MPH signs.



We discussed adding or modifying that sign with - Welcome Residents and Guests. Nancy volunteered to spruce up the large entrance sign next spring/summer.



The committee also discussed adding a red and white sign that said Stop, No thru Traffic, Private Drive. It had previously been suggested this sign be placed at the small parking area as you enter Fawn Road near the entrance to Edelweiss. Committee members felt this could be dangerous, particularly in the winter as stopping could endanger other traffic. There was also a concern that the placement at that location might be seen as information about Fawn Road, not the subdivision. It was agreed though, that a sign that said no Thru Traffic Private Drive be installed near the entrance. (Suggestion shown above).



Speed Signs – Previously the group agreed that ‘Private Road, Speed Limit 15 MPH’ be installed on Homestead and Highland Roads at the Y intersection and additional speed limit signs around 1,500 feet from the intersection of each road. Jerry mentioned the danger at the Homestead and Highland intersection leaving Edelweiss and suggested a yield sign on Homestead. He also expressed concern about the blind corner of Homestead (from east) and Rock Rose. Nicki said she planned to install a convex mirror on a tree or post directly across from the Rock Rose intersection to alert traffic in each direction. The group agreed. We also discussed placing a speed limit sign on West Fawn Road but it was unclear if that would be allowed by the USFS. (Note: there is a sign currently on West Fawn with a speed limit as shown to the right)



Dust and and the speed gravel signs. should be Help Keep



Gravel Signs - In addition to the sign at the community signs, the group had previously discussed dust and Jerry thought the “we don’t need to eat your dust” sign softened. It was suggested this could say ‘Slow Down, Dust Down.’



4-Wheel Drive - It was also suggested a sign that says “Please Use 4-Wheel Drive” be installed. This would likely be placed on Homestead and Highland at the ‘S’ curves.

Trespass Signs – The group discussed erecting a sign near the intersection of Goat Creek Road and East Fawn directing cyclists to the trails in the Rendezvous. Steve Ralph volunteered to discuss this with Methow Trail officials this week.

The committee also discussed trimming branches to allow the Homestead Street sign at the entrance to Edelweiss to be more visible when approaching from the east. Nicki said she talked to the homeowners at the entrance and they were supportive of vegetation removal at this location. (NOTE: There may be value in moving the Homestead sign closer to Goat Creek Road if allowed by the County).

Unmaintained Roads – The committee concluded that a custom sign that said, “Very Primitive, Unmaintained Road, Enter at your Own Risk” should be installed at intersection of Quaking Aspen and Rock Rose, Rock Rose past 10 Rock Rose (T. Smith and K. Kirner’s house) and on the west end of Trillium.

Nicki agreed to prepare a map with proposed locations of the signs for committee and board review and approval.

Road Classification – Tom Lasater shared the map he created that showed road widths based on the inventory done this summer. The group confirmed that Highland, Homestead and Cassal Road to the pool are the primary roads in Edelweiss and should be a minimum of 20 foot with 2 foot shoulders. Most of these roads meet the width requirement but there are deficiencies such as uphill of the ‘S’ curve on Highland below the pump house and on Highland to the cattle guard beyond Crabapple. The group also discussed adding East and West Fawn as primary roads though they agreed Edelweiss should not invest in these roads because of USFS ownership. Still, they thought it important to recognize the value of the road to the community particularly in case of fire access.

Secondary roads were discussed and in addition to Quaking Aspen, the group agreed that other secondary roads should include: remainder of Cassal, Bitterbrush, Highland Meadow Road and Crabapple Road. The group suggested the width of these roads should be a minimum of 18’ wide with 2’ shoulders.

All other roads are proposed to be a minimum of 12 wide with 2’ shoulders. Most roads meet this criteria. One notable exception is the west end of Trillium Road.

There was a brief discussion about need to make maps. Steve said he would investigate some mapping programs to see if he could come up with a way to mark up the existing base map for planning purposes.

Tom said he would like 2020 water improvements to be on Highland Road on the ‘S’ Curve and to include widening the road at this location. There was discussion about the best surface material to use. It was agreed that the most economical way of widening roads was to do in conjunction with the water project. There was general agreement that the 2019 Quaking Aspen road improvements associated with the water project were very well done. There was also a request to find out about pavement improvements at the entrance where it has deteriorated.

Next Steps– Nicki to draft locations for signage and work with Tom to define each road class. Present sign, road classification, purple air, and 2020 water line/road proposal to the board at their January 9th meeting. John Kirner to find out about pavement improvements at road entrance. Suggest to board that Craig and contractor meet on site to review road improvement for the 2020 season and confirm the best surface material. Steve to ask Methow Trails about a Methow trail sign at Goat Creek Road and FS Road 100. He also will examine mapping alternatives.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 15. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.