



Final Minutes

TOWN OF LYONS

Monday, Feb. 8th, 2021 6pm-8pm

Parks and Recreation Commission

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87276488232>

Or call in!

+1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 872 7648 8232

Attendance:

Ian Brighton, Chris Cope, Randy Pollard, Claudia Kean, Veronika Gaia, Yelena Hughes, Julia Herz, Mark Browning, Dave Cosgrove, Monica McGuckin, Justin Atherton, Doug D'Arcey, Larry Quinn, Marni Ratzel, Ron West, LaVern Johnson
Jeff Moline, Boulder County Open Space Planner

I. **Approval of Minutes**

Approved Unanimously

II. **Audience Business** - Limited to 15 minutes - All comments will be limited to 4 minutes per person

Larry Quinn - County Rd. 69 - Martin Parcel -

He and other residents of Rd. 69 are opposed to a trail connection from Martin property to County Rd 69. Mr. Quinn would like to see any proposal go through the public POST plan process. **Please see following comments from Mr. Quinn, under #7 below.**

Doug D'Arcey:

107 County Rd. 69, neighbor of Martin property. He is supporting Mr. Quinn's statement. Town of Lyons was only granted temporary 90 day access through his property, which is now rescinded.

Please see following comments from Mr. D'Arcey under #7 below.

Please see ADDENDUM at BOTTOM for full statement from Mr. Quinn.

Monica McGuckin:

Apple Valley resident, 558 Apple Valley Rd. concerned about Buy-Out properties in



Apple Valley that are scattered between neighbors. She is curious about status. She would like to see them stay with Boulder County so that atmosphere will stay rural and undeveloped as much as possible. Would be adamantly opposed to camping and high-use; preference would be for them to go into conservation easement. Monica is concerned about getting timely information on meetings regarding Buy-out Properties, and we will make sure to get everyone informed.

III. General Business

1. Discussion with Jeff Moline BoCo Planner (manager) Ernst Strenge, Justin Atherton-Wood, Marni Razel

Jeff shared his Slide Presentation.

Boulder Area Trails = BAT - New regional trail app for information on trails, closures, mapping. Parks and Open Space Missions and Goals stated, available on Boulder County Open Space website.

Trails Background - map of regional trails shown. Also on Website. Alignments that have and have not been achieved since 1999. Transportation dept. shows regional connection from Boulder Reservoir to Lyons, and St. Vrain Greenway connecting to Rabbit Mt. Also shows conceptual connections to Boulder.

Biking, bike commuting, multi-modal shown.

Question remains about when these will actually become reality. Putting together regional trails does take a long time.

St. Vrain Greenway - west section. Potential mining may mean a change of route. Justin - reservoir reconstruction is being completed now, and plans for future can now begin. Next year, public process will begin for planning possible routes for Lyons - Longmont connection.

Concentration centering between Golden Ponds and Pella Crossing for now.

Underpass at 36 and 66 and section from there to east - Lyons does own some railroad ROW.

Environmental Resources that need sensitive treatment are dealt with on a "Heat Map" image. High value areas need protection, and Lyons is a hot spot for sensitive environmental resources. Access to Heil is difficult because of these constraints.

Lyons Trail Requests:

1. **Lyon St. Vrain Corridor Trail Extension-** Our trail ends around McConnell Drive, but we have run into obstacles moving east. The three ditches we need to cross are problematic, and we would appreciate any partnership in solving this. Dave described the original plan and options created with grants in the past. Impasse needs to be solved before we can move forward on grants, but grants are available.



Jeff M. requests the original study and plans. He has also been dealing with ditch issues.

2. **Marni Ratzel - Lyons-Boulder Connection.** Boulder County Transportation planning is working with Cyclists for Community, to make a connection for bikeway between Boulder and Lyons. C for C is interested in off-road trail, possibly following roughly along highway route. Possible feasibility study in the works after some more work on topography, and property owners. These are recent conversations, and Lyons should be looped in to these conversations.

Should trail from Boulder Res move toward Greenway? In conceptual stage.

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy - Julia Herz believes that changes in their board and other personnel might make new approaches productive now. We also have 2 new County Commissioners. The canal between Lyons and Boulder has easements for themselves going over private land. Those private land owners north of Nelson were not welcoming of a trail along canal, and raised it with commissioners and others. The political will has not been there since. However, there may be new potential there, and we may be able to partner on that. Julia is willing take that on, working with Ian.

A trail following the US 36 highway may be an easier option, and may be the place to put our energy instead.

3. **Highway 7 trail connector from St. Vrain Corridor to Old South St. Vrain Rd.** The flood destroyed our older trail. County has been reviewing CDOT's plans for this - they seem to have no budget for trail work along highway 7 corridor. Some have the opinion that CDOT needs to pick up this issue, and bring it into a plan process. The increasing population pressure and potential danger to pedestrian and bike traffic makes this important to address.

Victoria Simonsen did push CDOT on this issue in a recent meeting, so that may be a start. Hwy 7 improvements are at 60% plan stage now. BCPOS has been asking for connection from Heil to Hall and this will be a good time to address that.

BOT has officially asked for this.

Mark Browning - can crossing happen at southern edge of Corona Hill county open space area? County Open Space may be able to free up that zone for this purpose. Larry Quinn added information, stating that there were previous agreements on using Corona Hill. Former BCOS Ron Stewart stopped that option from being pursued.

4. **Lyons to Hall Ranch Connector Trail -**

See above for Corona Hill thoughts.

This issue is still critical, and needs to be brought into the forefront.

5. **Steamboat Mountain Public Access/Trails**

Property owners have prevented movement on that for now, more research needed.



6. **Underpass/Crosswalk and/or trail for Apple Valley Road at US 36**
and improvements along Apple Valley to make it safer for pedestrians.
Transportation with County can help. Mark Browning also mentioned possible legal issues with the existing underpass.

7. **Martin Parcel potential access:** Town owns it, but it is a Buy Out property with constraints attached. It is still in unincorporated Boulder County. Whatever we would want to do there must pass codes within County. Permitting would need to go through County. At this point, most of PRC does NOT want to develop that area.
Chris Cope - the western edge of the property abuts the County Right of Way. Jeff - There are some survey challenges there. Chris is seeing a clear connection, and Jeff agrees. Jeff - the ROW does not necessarily match the existing roadway.

Comments from Larry Quinn: Chat

I commented on the lack of environmental assessment for HW7 which I reiterated in comments to CDOT. I believe that Categorical Exemption to EA is not appropriate with the significant environmental and social issues in the corridor.

Corona Hill was promised to town of Lyons during the purchase of the Hall Ranch since the town was losing potential development area. Ron Stewart then locked it away even though Ron and I led a hike up there many years ago. It should be the Chautauqua Park of Lyons and the eagles nest area could easily be avoided.

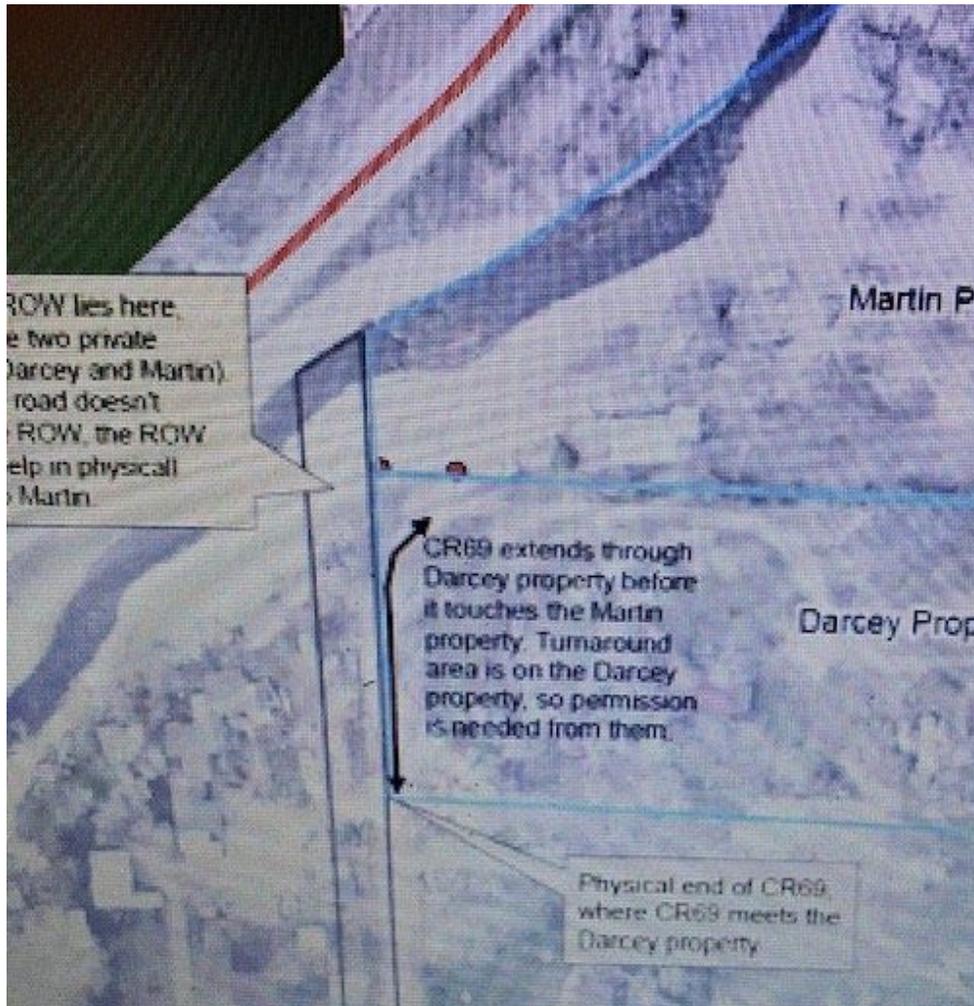
Folks in the City of Boulder access open space from multiple locations but providing Lyons with direct access has never been allowed since environmental issues appear to be more important in Lyons than Boulder.

County ROW for CR69 is not really the existing roadway. It is possible to access Martin Parcel from ROW but only in the streambank overflow area. Also, much of CR69 is actually easement and not county formal road ROW. The old 100+ year old subdivision was never formalized and finished out here so much of ROW is easement. I believe that Jim Blankenship researched this and at least half of ROW near Martin was easement.

Comment from Doug D'Arcey: Chat

This map states that a turnaround area (on our property) would need permission from the D'Arcey family. We were asked this from the county in 2018 and told them no.

Also, this map is from right after the flood and the river is currently about 30(?) feet further east.



8. **Apple Valley** - for now the County still holds the properties, no immediate action happening. Not on current Open Space maps for County. Town has no plans to develop these in foreseeable future at this point.

IV Town Updates

- a. Park Operations
- b. Park Projects

Camping expansion plans - picnic sites will become tent sites in some cases, and GOCO grant is going through. Black Bear Hole and Second Ave parking improvements, trail, and restroom are also part of the grant request, as well as the River Rescue stations.



c. Community Events

Old Man Winter did go last weekend, a run in town, in 10 person waves. It's only a couple hundred folks over two weekends.

Skate park is still going, although sun angle is changing. It's been a successful year. This week's cold temps will help. Typically we can get into March but it will be dependent on temperature.

d. Other Issues

V 2021 Noxious Weed Plan Update

Applications that will need to occur - Bohn Park areas may need treatment - new multi purpose fields need more than the previous organic treatment. Noxious weeds coming up and this is still under warranty.

Rock landscape of Main, 2nd Ave, and McConnell also need more than organic. These are the only places in town that will need more than organic treatment. Dave will have the proposals in the next couple of weeks for us and Ecology Board.

VI Night Sky Event Proposal

We can probably do this for Parks only, for a special event - shutting down all of town may be hard to do the first time.

Stargazing, meteor shower - August 12-13th Perseid - a possibly great target event.

Ian suggests that we have a backup date in case of weather.

If incorporating the town lights, there is equipment involved. Parks only is easier.

We can do engagement and outreach to town folk about voluntarily turning out lights for an event in Bohn Park and/or LaVern park.

BOT also needs to be on board. Schools and businesses can also help town get excited about our Dark Sky Night.

ADDENDUM: Full Statement from Larry Quinn

Larry Quinn Statement to PRC on Martin Parcel

8 Feb 21

My name is Larry Quinn and I have lived at 83 County Road 69 for 40 years this year. I am commenting on the agenda item related to the Martin Parcel. The town of Lyons conducted an extensive public involvement process on their potential buyout properties after the flood. There was disagreement during these meetings related to connecting a trail in Martin Parcel to County Road 69 but everyone who commented from county properties on CR69 was against such a connection.



County Road 69 is a rural residential quiet county road. Ever since the flood, many town residents have walked through the Martin Parcel to CR69 without an issue. However, local residents are adamantly against any formalized and promoted trail connection to CR69 as this would be very disruptive to our quiet properties. The town has existing connections to Heil Ranch directly to Picture Rock Trailhead and to Hall Ranch via HW7 so such a connection is redundant.

I would hope that any planning the PRC is contemplating for the Martin Parcel would be done as part of the POST Plan update as part of the 2021 Comp Plan. In this way, the entire greater community can discuss and review options in an open forum. This would include existing and proposed trails and connectivity. This especially will be important for input from the Ecology Board. The Ecology Board Vision and Recommendations for Martin stated "The Martin Parcel land has high ecological value as it provides a critical connective component including unique high river bench habitats, protective wildlife vegetative canopy corridors, and floodplain connectivity with the river." We concur with the Ecology Board and maintain that a formalized trail connection works against these values.

On maintaining the Martin parcel, there is existing ROW that can be opened up to the parcel, even though CR69 has never directly served it. Also, it would appear that the town could construct a maintenance access directly from the area near the new skate park.

Thank you

MEETING END: 8:04 PM

NEXT MEETING: March 8, 2021