



Memorandum

To: Vail Town Council

From: Kristen Bertuglia, Environmental Sustainability Department

Date: February 2, 2021

Subject: Ordinance No. 3, Series of 2021, an Ordinance approving a certain parcel of land owned by the Town of Vail as Designated Open Space pursuant to Section 13.11 of the Vail Town Charter

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide supporting information for Ordinance, No. 3, Series of 2021, for the recommendation of the designation of parcel 2101-123-00-006 as Designated Open Space.

II. BACKGROUND

Via Resolution No. 47, Series of 2019, Cara Beutel of Houston, TX donated to the Town of Vail, a 48.13 acre parcel located in East Vail on the south side of Bighorn Rd., off Willow Way. The donation was conditioned upon an adequate appraisal, and the Town Council designating this parcel as Designated Open Space upon a recommendation from the Open Space Board of Trustees. Established by the Town of Vail Charter, the Open Space Board of Trustees consists of one Town Council member currently served by Kim Langmaid (Chair), the Town Manager (Scott Robson), and one member of the Planning and Environmental Commission (Ludwig Kurz).

Property Details:

- 48.13 acres
- Originally purchased for \$55,000 in 1979 from James and Nancy Reinecke, now fully owned by the Town of Vail.
- The entire property is currently zoned Agricultural and Open Space.
- Included in the Open Lands Plan:
 - *Action Item #21 Purpose - Protect environmentally sensitive land from development. Action – Acquire parcel or work with land owner on conservation Easement.*
- Legal access could have provided from adjacent Town owned property. Area residents have used the property for trail loops for years, according to an adjacent property owner and visible worn pathways.
- The property is appropriate and meets the criteria for Designated Open Space, which is as follows:

The parcel must be owned by the Town of Vail and zoned Natural Area Preservation, Outdoor Recreation or Agriculture Open Space and be:

Environmentally Sensitive Lands (wetlands, riparian areas, critical habitat identified by the Division of Wildlife or the Natural Heritage Program;

High Hazards area including the 100 year flood plain, red avalanche hazards area, high rock fall hazard area and high debris flow hazard area;
or

Town of Vail parks that provide passive outdoor recreational opportunities.

This parcel provides an abundance of wildlife habitat including valuable riparian area, steep slopes, and healthy vegetation. It is home to ungulate species, birds, and black bear. The area includes stream access and has been utilized by the local neighborhood for light walking trails. The riparian areas offer opportunities for enhancement, including erosion control and improved vegetation along the waterways. Staff will investigate proper project areas in 2021.

III. OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOMMENDATION

The Open Space Board of Trustees convened on January 15, 2021 and voted unanimously to recommend to the Vail Town Council that the parcel be Designated Open Space.

IV. ACTION REQUESTED

Staff requests the Vail Town Council approve, approve with modifications, or deny Ordinance No. 3, Series of 2021.

V. ATTACHMENTS

- A.) Resolution No. 47, Series of 2019
- B.) Area Map
- C.) Ordinance No. 3, Series of 2021
- D.) Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 3, Series of 2021