

Wiecks detailed for the board a plan he called Trail Watch, which aims to improve the fire safety of the lands adjacent to the reservoirs by opening the trail to experienced volunteer hikers, mountain bikers, and others who would be trained and would have numbers to call if they spotted any type of problem. Wiecks argued more volunteers on the trail would improve safety by increasing the numbers of hours that the trail is monitored.

The role of the volunteers would be to report problems, not to enforce laws and regulations, Wiecks emphasized.

Trustee Susan Miner raised the issue of the town's liability if Wiecks's proposal was put in place. Town Attorney Matthew Krob argued the town should reduce its liability by not officially endorsing the volunteers.

Town Fire Chief Christopher McCarthy came down on the side of keeping the trail closed, pointing out his concern was with the small percentage of people who would behave irresponsibly. McCarthy pointed out there is no defensible space between the reservoirs and the town, and no possibility of creating any.

The consensus of the board was to keep the trail closed while the Stage 2 fire ban is in place.

Work to improve library ramp underway.

In July, the Pikes Peak Library District closed the Palmer Lake library because the ramp did not meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

At the Sept. 10 meeting, Erhardt offered to demolish the

existing ramp for \$14,000, and estimated the work would take one week.

Radosevich told the board he had received one bid to demolish the ramp, remove the material and rebuild the ramp to ADA standards from a Colorado Springs company for \$138,383. Krob said the town should reject the existing bid and then re-bid the job without the demolition work.

The board voted to accept Erhardt's bid for demolition and to re-bid the rest of the project.

At the Sept. 24 meeting, Radosevich announced the ramp demolition was complete.

Historic Town Hall in need of repairs

At the Sept. 10 meeting, Radosevich told the board that the Town Hall needed structural repairs on the roof and north side of the building. A permanent fix was being designed, Radosevich said, and would be put out to bid. Radosevich said he was seeking a grant to help pay for the repairs.

At the Sept. 24 meeting, Radosevich said he had put out a bid for an emergency shoring up of the Town Hall, and bidding would close Oct. 5. Radosevich asked the board to authorize emergency work to save the roof in the event of snow. The board authorized Radosevich to act in case of an emergency.

Four special event permits granted

The board voted to approve the following special events:

- .5k Race fundraiser for Awake the Lake, scheduled for Oct. 4.
- Cross Country race for Lewis-Palmer High School, scheduled for Sept. 17-18.
- Cross Country race for

Discovery Canyon Campus, scheduled for Sep. 21.

- Cross Country race for Palmer Ridge High School, scheduled for Sep. 25.

Ordinance establishing cost for right-of-way vacation approved

In several previous meetings, Trustee Banta had asked if it was possible for the town to charge market value for town land whose ownership is transferred to a person requesting vacation of a right of way. The town deals with several of these requests every year because many roads were included in the town plan but never built.

Attorney Krob researched this and found state law requires a flat fee for such land transfers.

Ordinance 14-2020 was approved, putting in place a \$500 fee for each request for a right-of-way vacation to cover the cost of staff time.

Auditor gives town a clean bill of financial health

David Green, the town's auditor, gave the board the preliminary results of his 2019 audit. Green said his final report would include an "unmodified opinion," which means the audit revealed no significant cause for concern.

Green mentioned not all timesheets and employee expense reimbursements were approved, and those approvals processes should be improved.

Living Word Church contract signed

Radosevich said the contract to donate the church to the town was signed on Sept. 23, and he requested a special meeting with the board to de-

cide how to proceed with the church.

Radosevich said the church was soon to be connected to a new water main, which would allow troubleshooting of the plumbing, and said the boiler was not operational.

Certificate of appreciation goes to Ramshur family

At the Sept. 10 meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Mark Shuler gave John and Christie Ramshur a certificate of appreciation for their years of volunteer work benefitting the town.

Creek Week proclamation signed

Alli Schuch, Watershed Outreach coordinator, spoke to the board about the importance of watersheds. Town Clerk Dawn Collins read the proclamation, which specifies the week of Sept. 26 to Oct. 4 Creek Week and encourages town citizens to protect, restore and maintain the town's waterways.

Kirk Noll of the Palmer Lake Parks Commission said volunteers would meet on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 9 a.m. in the parking lot across from the Tri-Lakes Art Center. Noll said details could be found on the town's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/places/Things-to-do-in-Palmer-Lake-Colorado/104139666288763>

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to hold two meetings in October, on Oct. 8 and 22 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953. *James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me. Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.*

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