

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.
Council Chamber, Municipal Hall**

Present: Mark Atherton (meeting chair), Karen Hoffman, Councillor Jay Shukin, Jim Nan, Gord Stodola (recorder for meeting)

Regrets: Ellen Dewar

Absent: Ron Aubrey, Lee Johnston

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

- 1. Annual Election of Committee Chair** – Mark was nominated for Committee Chair by Jim. Elected by acclamation.

Ron was nominated for Committee Vice-Chair by Jim. Elected by acclamation.

- 2. Agenda, Additions and Approval: Added 10 f) Committee Title.**

Moved by Gord that the Committee approve the agenda as presented. **Carried.**

- 3. Roundtable Introductions** – Councillor Shukin introduced himself to the Committee, his Committee roles on Council, and provided a summary of the revised Council Committee structures. Committee members then spoke to their involvement with PTASC.

- 4. Public Participation:** Kerry Panton, Don Farkas and Adrian Hannam, all residents in proximity to the Weir Beach stairs, addressed the Committee. They spoke to the history of the trail, its evolving use and current unsafe state, and some of the challenges residents of the area are facing.

To summarize:

- They all agree the trail is a valued asset to the Weir Beach community and the access should be remediated;
- Traffic and parking at the trail access are significant safety issues;
- While refuse and human waste on the beach is a problem, trash cans and toilet facilities are not appropriate as they would encourage more use from outside the area;
- Some guests of the RV resort are taking de facto ownership of the beach, securing personal items such as water crafts with cables tied to driftwood, rather than taking them back to their RVs at end-of-day.

- 5. Adoption of Minutes**

- a) Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee, September 20, 2022**

Moved by Karen that the Committee approve the minutes of the Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022. **Carried.**

6. Receipt of Minutes

- a) **Parks Committee, September 26, 2022**
- b) **Community Planning Committee, November 21, 2022**
- c) **Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee, November 22, 2022**

The highlights of the above-noted minutes as they relate to PTASC were discussed.

Moved by Jim that the Committee receive the above-noted minutes for information. **Carried.**

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a) **Picnic Table on Sea Bluff Trail:** At the last PTASC meeting Ron suggested that a follow-up on memorial assets nearing their end-of-maintenance agreement be undertaken. The task was assigned to the Trails Coordinator, who has subsequently resigned. Gord offered to take on this task.

Action - Gord to review asset list and identify benches and tables requiring maintenance and recommitment of maintenance financing.

Action: Request to staff to remove this item from the agenda.

- b) **Optimizing Public Engagement – Buffer Land Parcel**
 - **Metchosin Greenspace Community Survey**

Councillor Shukin is now lead on the Buffer Land Parcel. He provided a brief history of this land, and what steps have led us to today. Going forward, a Working Group to identify and evaluate future uses of the buffer land will be formed, with the intent to have their findings published by fall 2023.

As an aside, a review of documents obtained through FOI determined that a Section 219 Land Titles Covenant allows for building a water retention pond for Centre Mountain on the buffer lands.

Recommendation - Any proposal for a water retention pond should be referred to MEASC and PTASC for their advice.

- c) **Welcome To Metchosin Sign:** Ron has asked Public Works a number of times for assistance with weed whacking at the site, without response.

Action – Councillor Shukin to follow up with Public Works.

- d) **Weir Beach Stairs –** engineering options for replacing the stairs have been presented to Council. This was discussed briefly at a recent Community Planning meeting where this item was referred back to PTASC. A Working Group that will include interested residents will be formed.

Action – Councillor Shukin and Mark to develop Working Group Terms of Reference for consideration of Council.

- e) **Proposed Subdivision, 942 Winter Road** options letter penned after site visit by PTASC. These are the summarized options and recommendation:

- i. Cash in lieu of park dedication – A cash donation would be put into the Parks Acquisition Fund to be used for future park acquisition.
- ii. 5% park dedication – options for a trail and parkland were documented.
- iii. Amenity zoning – Roughly 50-60% of the area zoned uplands is inaccessible for residential construction. It is ideally suited for park purposes and should be given favourable consideration should the developer propose it under the amenity zoning option.
- iv. Purchase of parkland – as stated above, 50 – 60% of the upland zone is ideally suited for park purposes. The district may wish to negotiate with the developer for the purchase of the area as parkland while allowing some form of amenity zoning for the balance of the property.

Recommendation: Option ii. with a strong preference for Option iii. As such it is suggested that the Approving Officer open a discussion on Option iii.

8. Reports

a) **Parks and Trails Coordinator Report Verbal Report:** N/A, position vacant

b) **Council Liaison Verbal Report:**

Updates provided in **7. Business Arising from the Minutes** and **4. Public Participation.**

c) **Chair Verbal Report:** Mark reported the following:

- Lusse Way, Horse Trail – maintenance requirements previously identified were coordinated by Jim and are now complete;
- Mark completed extensive fallen tree cleanup on Libra Trail at Gemini Trail;
- Mount Ash – continues to be a concern about amount of soil being dumped on site which may eventually impact the trail to the viewpoint;
- The District placed an ad in the Muse to recruit a candidate for the vacant Trails Coordinator position. There has been no response to date;
- Mark wrote and submitted to the District a letter on behalf of the Committee re proposed 942 Winter Road subdivision plan documenting findings and PTASC recommendations;
- Mark brushed both Ed's Lane and the Horse Trail;
- Blinkhorn Nature Park invasive species removal is ongoing.

Moved by Gord that the Committee receive the above reports for information. **Carried.**

9. Correspondence

a) **Chris Blaney, Blaney Trail Ocean Lookout** – in a letter to the District Mr. Blaney inquired whether there was room for a third memorial bench to recognize his family. He also noted that the ocean view was being obscured by new tree growth. It is the Committee's view that the site is not appropriate to house three memorial benches.

Moved by Gord that the Committee receive the above correspondence for information. **Carried.**

Action – Councillor Shukin to respond to Mr. Blaney's inquiry.

10. Other Business

- a) **Trails Coordinator Ad, January Metchosis Muse** – posted, no response. May need to ‘coordinate the Coordinator’s work by the Committee’.
- b) **Proposed 3 Lot Subdivision, 384 Seaspray Drive** - options were discussed, and a PTASC site visit will be scheduled.
- c) **Proposed 7 Lot Subdivision, Section 40, Neild Road** – options were discussed, and a PTASC site visit will be scheduled.

Action – Mark to propose dates for both site visits, and contact the District for proponent’s contact information.

- d) **PTASC 2023 Budget:** The District has requested the PTASC budget for 2023.

Recommendation:

- **Major capital** - \$55,000 for Weirs Beach Trail reconstruction
- **Minor capital** - \$10,000 for projects that may come forward during the year
- **Maintenance** - \$15,000

Action - Mark to submit discussed 2023 budget numbers to the District.

- e) **PTASC Joint Meeting with Council** – The Committee felt the Joint Meeting with Council held four years ago when the previous Council was new was valuable, and would like to suggest a meeting with this new Council.

Action - Mark to pen a list of possible topics and circulate.

Action - Mark to send email to Mayor Little and Interim CAO Tarnowski suggesting a meeting at one of our future Advisory Committee time slots.

- f) **Committee Title** - Gord observed that our Committee is now referred to as Parks and Trails Advisory Committee on the District web site, with the previous identifier ‘Select’ removed.

Action – Gord to follow up with the District as to correct title for the Committee.

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved by Gord to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. **Carried.**

The next meeting will be held on February 21, 2023, or at the call of the Chair.