

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.
Council Chamber, Municipal Hall**

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

Regrets: Lee Johnston

Absent: Ron Aubrey, Ellen Dewar

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

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

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

2. Welcome Ryan Carter, Trails Coordinator - Introductions

3. Public Participation: none.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee, January 17, 2023

Moved by Karen that the Committee approve the minutes of the Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee meeting held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. **Carried.**

5. Receipt of Minutes

a) Community Planning Committee, January 16, February 13, February 21, March 13 and March 23, 2023

b) Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee, January 24, February 28 and March 28, 2023

The highlights of the above-noted minutes as they relate to PTASC were discussed. The buffer lands, including stormwater management, Weir Beach stairs and a rezoning application for 4696 Beckingham Road were specifically noted.

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

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Optimizing Public Engagement – Buffer Land Parcel: Councillor Shukin provided an update on this topic. Of note, a Buffer Land Working Group comprised of citizens, Councillors and Advisory Committee members has been appointed. Terms of Reference have been written. A public information session will be held shortly. A report will be drafted and presented to Council, tentatively by mid-October.

Action – Councillor Shukin to provide Working Group with interim buffer land management recommendations previously penned by PTASC.

- b) **Welcome To Metchosin Sign:** regular landscaping maintenance needs have been communicated to Public Works by Councillor Shukin.

Action – request to staff to remove this item from the agenda.

- c) **Weir Beach Stairs** – Councillor Shukin provided an update. Planning and public engagement continues. Favoured solution is an ‘as-is’ remediation of the current access.

Action – Councillor Shukin to document remediation plan and share with stakeholders.

Recommendation – PTASC recommends that this project be given priority this year, as this beach access is an asset to residents in proximity to Weir Beach. PTASC does not feel qualified to speak to the issue of on-site parking, and suggest that a professional such as a traffic engineer be consulted.

- d) **Proposed Subdivision, 942 Winter Road** – input has been provided to the District.

Action – request to staff to remove this item from the agenda.

- e) **Proposed 3 Lot Subdivision, 384 Seaspray Drive:**

Motion to go in camera

Jim moved to go in camera to discuss a sensitive topic related to Seaspray Park.¹ **Carried.**

A member observed that the park dedication adjacent to the proposed subdivision has never been used for park purposes and is too small to meet minimum lot size for the zoning. The proposed subdivision may present an opportunity to capture some financial value from it. PTASC discussed options and recommends that Council give consideration to offering it for sale.

Karen moved to call the open portion of the meeting back to order at 8:05 pm. **Carried.**

Action: The Chair to convey the results of the in-camera session to Mayor and Council by letter.

- f) **Proposed 7 Lot Subdivision, Section 40, Neild Road:** a site visit date was set for PTASC to meet with the owner/developer and his representatives.

¹ The correct procedure should have been to make a motion to: “close the meeting to the public under section 90 (1) (e) of the Community Charter to consider information related to:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality.”

The District Administration subsequently advised the meeting did not have to go in camera, thus the results of the discussion have been reported.

- g) **Chris Blaney, Blaney Trail Ocean Lookout:** Councillor Shukin communicated with Mr. Blaney re possible memorial tribute to the Blaney family at this site. An additional memorial bench is not an option.

Action – request to staff to remove this item from the agenda.

- h) **PTASC 2023 Budget:** Mark has submitted PTASC’s proposed 2023 budget to the District.

Action – request to staff to remove this item from the agenda. Councillor Shukin to convey budget to the PTASC once it has been approved.

- i) **PTASC Joint Meeting with Council:** both Council and PTASC members felt this meeting was productive and positive.

Action – request to staff to remove this item from the agenda.

7. Reports

- a) **Parks and Trails Coordinator Report Verbal Report:** N/A as Ryan has just been appointed.

- b) **Council Liaison Verbal Report:** most updates were provided in discussions in **6. Business Arising from the Minutes**. Additionally:

- Beckingham Place subdivision – there is a possibility for park land acquisition if amenity zoning is approved.

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

Budget - submitted January 18

Metchosin Sign - referred to Jay January 18

Trails Coordinator

- Ryan appointed about March 6
- Provided briefing March 12

Weir Beach

- Met with Jay and neighbours March 1 to discuss options
- Met with contractor March 3 to explore possibility of using screw piles to anchor stairs
- Met with Jay, Al Herle and Ryan April 6 to discuss engineered options for access

Buffer lands

- Nominated Karen as our representative on the Working Group

William Head crew

- Blaney Park blackberry removal and cleanup March 13 and April 3
- Consulted with District admin on future work. Advised to stay within parks and internal trails. Public Works will maintain roadside and Madill trails
- Future work areas – Ron Wier, Hillman and Branson/Duke trails; clean up Seaspray Park; broom removal in unnamed park in Hackamore subdivision

Liaison with other groups

- Treaty Open House – March 15
- Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative – March 18 holly treatment in Metchosin, Eleanor Mann and Buckbrush Swamp Parks
- CRD Parks chance find archaeological site workshop – March 23
- Bilson Watershed Habitat Protection Association - April 6 - ex Conservation Officer, Peter Pawels discussed enforcement from CO Service experience perspective

Council/administration related

- Together with Gord Stodola met with the CAO January 30 to discuss her concerns regarding the role of our advisory committee
- Organized joint meeting with Planning Committee of Council – February 21
- Provided Councilor Gray a three-hour field tour of select parks and trails – March 9

Park and Trail maintenance

- Bob Mountain Trail – February 1 – Gord cleared blowdowns
- Metchosin Park – February 22 and March 8 – Gord cleared blowdowns
- Eds Lane – March 27 - Mark assessed a reported hazard tree. Decided to let it fall naturally
- Blinkhorn Nature Park – April 13 Public Works fell a large European Ash in preparation for a subsequent stump treatment
- Unnamed Park in Hackamore subdivision – March 6 – inspected park for broom removal proposed by adjacent resident. Marked if for future work by William Head crew.

Issues:

- Blaney Park - March 10 - unauthorized tree cutting
- Bob Mountain Trail – March 21 – report of excavator working adjacent to the trail. No issue.
- Montreul Hill – March 27 - directional sign knocked down (Public Works has since reinstalled it)
- Mt. Ash SRW - March 21 – machine damage to trail

Action – Mark to file a complaint on behalf of PTASC regarding machine damage to Mt. Ash Lookout statutory right of way.

NB – Councillor Shukin recused himself when Mt. Ash was discussed.

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

8. Correspondence: none.

9. Other Business

a) Parks and Trails Issues:

- **Mt. Ash Trail** – discussed under **7c) Chair Verbal Report**
- **Tree Cutting at Blaney Park** – unauthorized tree cutting has occurred at Blaney Park. Bylaw Enforcement was engaged.
- **Directional Signage to Montreul Hill** - discussed under **7c) Chair Verbal Report**

- **Chapel Heights** – Lane to Metchosin Road – A gate across the trail has been installed, presumably by the adjacent landowner.
- **Insurance Coverage** – personal injury and liability coverage amounts were discussed.

Action – Trails Coordinator to follow up on issue re Chapel Heights.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved by Councillor Shukin to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. **Carried.**

The next meeting will be held on June 20, 2023, or at the call of the Chair.