

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Jay Shukin (Councillor Liaison) via electronic communication, Mark Atherton (Chair), Ryan Carter, Ellen Dewar, Jim Nan, Ron Aubrey

Regrets: Karen Hoffman, Gord Stodola, Lee Johnston

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved by Ryan that the Committee approve the agenda as amended with the addition of the Dogs in Metchosin Working Group request under New Business.

Carried

2. Presentations

Centre Mountain Trail & Swale, Nicole Shukin

Ms. Shukin provided a PowerPoint presentation on an approach for managing stormwater flowing off the Centre Mountain residential development utilizing a trail and swale approach. She described how swales are constructed and provided examples from other jurisdictions. She stated several benefits for a number of stakeholders.

3. Public Participation

Jenette McMillan, Duke Road, provided information related to a citizens' group proposal for a footpath/roadside trail along Duke Road East. She tabled a document signed by 140 local area citizens supporting the trail extension as their collective "Indication of Interest".

Patti Williams, Park Drive, tabled a letter she had written to Mayor and Council, supporting the Duke Road East trail while also asking that consideration be given to a walking trail along Park Drive. Her comments elaborated on this topic.

Erin Ronsse, Cactus Place, supported the Duke Road East trail but also commented that some were not supporting it. "This is to be expected", she said.

Darren Brown, Graceland Drive, was concerned about committee openness and policy related to sale of District parkland.

Nicole Shukin, LaBonne Road, was concerned about the damage done to the Mt. Ash statutory right of way and the remediation done to address it.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Ellen that the Committee approve the minutes of the Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee meeting held on June 20, 2023.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

Some highlights of the Council and Standing Committee minutes as they related to parks and trails were observed by the Chair including:

- Council has directed the Dogs in Metchosin Working Group to conduct an educational campaign;
- Council has referred Parks Donation Guidelines to our committee;
- Updates on our committee's activities were recorded in the Community Planning Committee minutes of July 17, 2023; and
- Buffer Lands, stormwater management and the Beckingham subdivision have all been of interest to our committee.

Moved by Ron that the Committee receive Council and Standing Committee minutes for information.

- Community Planning Committee, June 12 and July 17, 2023
- Special Community Planning Committee, August 14, 202
- Environmental Advisory Select Committee, May 23, 2023

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Buffer Land Working Group

The Council Liaison reported that the Buffer Land Working Group will hold a community planning meeting on October 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

The Chair observed that, with the exception of the Stormwater Management Plan, the Buffer Lands have never been referred to our committee.

b) Weir Beach Stairs

The Council Liaison reported that reconstruction of the Weirs Beach stairs is in the early stages of planning. A simple plan is needed, a contractor chosen, and work to be done. It may be delayed until next year.

c) Metchosin Community Day

The Chair reported that he and the Trails Coordinator staffed the parks booth all day. There was lots of interest from people both from within and outside Metchosin.

d) Roadside Trail Maintenance, Pears Road

Public Works brushed the vegetation from the sides of the trail improving its accessibility. The Council Liaison stimulated a discussion on how much the trail is used and how much of a burden it is for Public Works to maintain.

e) Parks Donation Program

Council resolutions dated July 17, 2023 as to:

- Memorial Bench Application, Duke Road
- Parks Donation Program Guidelines

A brief discussion on the approach to managing the donation program took place.

Action: The Parks and Trails Coordinator will circulate information by email between now and the next meeting with the objective of having a recommended approach in time for discussion at the next meeting.

f) Rezoning Application, 4696 Beckingham Road

The Council Liaison advised that the application for amenity rezoning has been withdrawn and the subdivision proposal will now follow the regular subdivision process.

7. Reports

a) Parks & Trails Coordinator Verbal Report

- Brushed Libra trails and Olympic View Drive beach access trail
- Leaning tree on Olympic View beach access trail being monitored instead of being removed as poses minimal safety risk
- Committee members Jim and Gord have done work in Blinkhorn Nature Park, Eleanor Mann, Metchosin Wilderness Park, and the Hillman Bridge
- Jim oversaw Benson Excavating's beach repairs at Blinkhorn Nature Park
- Boundaries for Seaspray and Graceland pocket parks were flagged.
- Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative continues to remove invasive European Ash at Blinkhorn Nature Park.
- New directional signage to Mt. Ash has been installed.
- "No Fires" signage at Blinkhorn was recommended by the Fire Chief but there has been no response from Public Works or the District office as to responsibility for installation.
- Some new signage is contemplated to replace missing or worn-out signage.
- Memorial bench on Duke Road has been approved by Council and quotes for costs have been received from suppliers. Waiting for consultation feedback from BC Transit then Public Works can pour a cement pad.
- 204 hours of volunteer time have been logged since mid June.

- b) Council Liaison Verbal Report
- Centre Mountain Stormwater Management Plan is a concern. Noted the motion passed at the September 11 meeting on Metchosin getting clarity on water quality measures before the plan is approved.
 - Repairs have been made to the Mt. Ash statutory right of way. There are concerns about the steep slope on one side being a safety hazard.
 - P&TASC discussion of potential sale of Seaspray Park being made In Camera was a mistake as an advisory body should only go in camera if requested by Council. Any sale of parkland has to follow a process that gives citizens an opportunity to oppose it.
- c) Chair Verbal Report
- Councillor Gray approached us about erecting bat boxes in Blaney Park, but no formal proposal has been received.
 - The William Head crew continues to provide labour. They have been removing invasives and woody debris from Blinkhorn Nature Park.
 - Melissa Kirk has left the District's employment. She was very helpful providing whatever mapping we requested and will be missed. We wish her well in her new employment elsewhere.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. New Business

- a) Albert Head Neighbourhood Group, Proposal, Parks and Trails Opportunities
- Council resolution dated July 17, 2023
 - Proposal

The Albert Head Neighbourhood Group has submitted a comprehensive proposal for their area of Metchosin. P&TASC supports the construction of a roadside trail on Duke Road East and walking path on Park Drive. Pedestrian safety is the primary focus.

The neighbourhood group has committed to participate in trail construction with labour and materials where possible. The following workplan anticipates their involvement without specifying how they will be involved.

Recommended workplan for roadside trails:

- Confirm available resources and expertise from within the Albert Head community
- Conduct a visual inspection to determine if there is room in the right of way to construct a trail;
- Confirm property boundaries by obtaining survey plans and identifying location of property pins;
- Seek advice of ex trails contractor
- Confirm availability of equipment either by donation or rental
- Develop budget based on machine rental, amount of subgrade, road base, culverts and other cost items
- Consult with Public Works, BC 1 Call and others as necessary
- Seek approval from Council
- Implement

It was noted that the District's budgeting process would begin in November.

- b) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee Comments on Centre Mountain Residential Stormwater Management Plan as of April 27, 2023

The Centre Mountain Stormwater Management Plan was circulated to the Committee on a confidential basis as it is not a public document. The P&TASC conducted a review and submitted comments the District Engineer on August 12, 2023. No feedback has been received.

The Chair noted that P&TASC's comments and the Trail and Swale presentation by Nicole Shukin have similarities although the approach is different.

- c) Duke Road East, Proposed Roadside Trail

See discussion under 9(a)

- d) Committee Renewals

The Chair discussed renewing committee membership in the context of succession planning. He suggested that we could make room for new members if some of the least participatory members either stepped down or allowed their term to expire without seeking renewal from Council. A short discussion about the role of committee members followed. That is, are we an advisory body only or are we also a group that volunteers our labour?

Recommendation. Council should seek feedback from the Chair before automatically renewing committee appointments.

- e) Opposition to Metchosin Park Trail Repair

A citizen opposes repairs to a seasonally muddy section of the main trail in Metchosin Park, and interfered with work actively being done by Benson Excavating under the supervision of one of our volunteers. Other citizens have either complained about the poor state of some sections or have praised the District for repairs that have been made.

It is consensus among committee members that volunteers should not have to bear the brunt of any opposition. When it occurs, the work should be referred to Public Works to carry out the repair.

Staff Action. Refer the Metchosin Wilderness Park trail repairs to Public Works for action.
Note: there is urgency to make the repairs before the winter rains interfere with effective repair.

- f) Welcome to Metchosin Sign

Ron is concerned that there is no formal designation for the sign and the landscaped area associated with it.

Discussion deferred to next meeting.

g) Request by Dog Working Group

Discussion deferred to next meeting.

9. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.