

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.  
Council Chamber, Municipal Hall**

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**Present:** Mark Atherton (meeting chair), Ron Aubrey, Ryan Carter, Ellen Dewar, Karen Hoffman, Councillor Jay Shukin, Gord Stodola (recorder for meeting)

**Regrets:** Jim Nan

**Absent:** Lee Johnston

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

**1. Agenda, Additions and Approval: add 9d) Christmas Social**

At the onset of the meeting, Chair Mark Atherton informed the committee that his two year term expires December 31 and he has not renewed his term. He suggested that the discussion that follows should be mindful of that.

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

**2. Presentations: N/A**

**3. Public Participation:** Erin Ronsse – Presented and spoke to a map of the Albert Head area. She has been in touch with a surveyor regarding the Duke Road East Trail project who provided a brief on challenges and possible costs for identifying survey pins. She has spoken with Ron Aubrey regarding equipment requirements. She introduced the committee to the concept of an advisory shoulder and its safety benefits.

Patty Williams – thanked Mark for his presentation to the Community Planning Committee regarding the Duke Road East Trail project, and especially appreciated his emphasizing pedestrian safety.

Tamara Ballard – asked about the status of a trailhead sign at Sea Bluff brought up a couple PTASC meetings ago. She mentioned she'd hiked the Mt. Ash trail and appreciated both the view and the work undertaken to remediate the trail.

Kathy Atherton – spoke to the conversations in the Atherton household about Mark's future with PTASC, and encouraged the Committee members to urge Mark to stay on. She believes the Mt. Ash trail is still in need of additional remediation.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**a) Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee, September 19, 2023**

Moved by Ellen that the Committee approve the minutes of the Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. **Carried.**

**5. Receipt of Minutes**

- a) **Community Planning Committee, September 11, 2023**
- b) **Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee, June 27 and September 26, 2023**

The highlights of the above-noted minutes as they relate to PTASC were discussed. Mark had observations about the third draft of the stormwater management plan, the Duke Road East Trail, Weir Beach stairs and the Beckingham Road subdivision application.

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

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- a) **Buffer Land Working Group:** Councillor Shukin provided an update on this topic. Of note:
  - The final public input session was held and the Working Group's final report was submitted on October 23, 2023. From this report, four phases are proposed:

**“Phase 1:** Council to gauge its support for effectively resourcing a park management plan that supports the Buffer Land as a protective ecological area.

**Phase 2:** Pending completion of Phase 1, rezone the Buffer Land to the existing Parkland zone (P3), doing this as soon as possible.

**Phase 3:** Develop a new zoning designation that better reflects ecological conservation / preservation goals. Apply this zone to the Buffer Land when ready.

**Phase 4:** Develop a management plan for the Buffer Land, detailing adequate resourcing to meet the requirements of Phase 3.

... Should Council determine that it cannot resource the Buffer Land to support this land as a park, it should consider a sale to a third party.”

- b) **Parks Donation Program**

- Parks Donation Program Update
- Parks Donation Program Guidelines

The Committee discussed Ryan's updates and provided feedback.

**Action** – Ryan to incorporate feedback and circulate before next meeting.

- c) **Welcome to Metchosin Sign:** A level of frustration about lack of district support and recognition for all the volunteer effort to maintain this very visual entrance to Metchosin was articulated. Repeated requests for some Public Works support with weeding have gone unanswered.

At a recent site visit, Ron offered, based on his years of keeping this site tidy, to draft a maintenance schedule. This maintenance schedule will help inform the decision on whether this site should be classified as a park or a roadside trail.

**Action:** Request to staff to remove this item from the agenda, and bring forward when the maintenance schedule is available for review.

- d) **Dogs in Metchosin Working Group:** is undertaking an information campaign, including suggesting paper map revisions to accommodate info about dogs off-leash / under control.

PTASC agrees with 'All Dogs Must Be On Leash at Sea Bluff Farm', but the committee has some concerns with specifying dogs can be off-leash.

**Action:** Mark to provide committee feedback to the Dogs In Metchosin Working Group.

- e) **Committee Renewal / Succession Planning:** again, the Committee expressed an ongoing frustration with its engagement with the District. Too often Committee input appears to be ignored or unacknowledged. This ongoing issue has escalated to the point that it is affecting the desire of some Committee members to stay involved with PTASC.
- f) **Metchosin Park Trail Repairs:** Despite Mark's email to Interim CAO Tarnowski of September 21 requesting district assistance with a timely repair to a section of Metchosin Wilderness Park, and Councillor Donaldson recognizing it as a safety issue, no fall repair was initiated. This repair may need to be delayed to next year.

## 7. Reports

- a) **Parks and Trails Coordinator Report Verbal Report:** Ryan reported the following:

- Mark cleared a tree in EMP
- Ryan cleared two trees in MWP
- Jim and Mark investigated a fallen tree on the Hillman trail, referred to Public Works
- Another tree down on Lisandra trail – Ryan will go look later this week
- A resident requested more brush clearing on the Olympic View Dr. beach trail but Ryan can't contact them, so he's not entirely sure exactly what they're asking for
- Memorial bench on Duke Rd. now pending updated Parks Donation Program

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

- Weir Beach stairs – there was a recent on-site meeting with technical resources. Construction challenges have been identified. Options will be discussed at the next Community Planning Committee meeting
- Thanked PTASC members who've not renewed their terms
- Sea Bluff sign – will follow up on
- Beckingham subdivision application – has come back to the district as an 18 lot subdivision with no request for amenity zoning previously proposed
- Buffer Land Working Group – all terms were met.
- The district is drafting a nuisance bylaw, which includes noise, odour and unsightly premises. The bylaw has passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
- Stormwater Detention pond for the Centre Mountain residential development – Council has passed several motions toward ensuring the detention pond is part of a system that has advanced water quality measures and that there is consideration for the maintenance of the pond post-construction.

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

- William Head crew has gone silent
- Requested four European Ash in Blinkhorn be felled by Public Works, no feedback or action.

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

**8. Correspondence:**

- a) **Gerald Vaulkhard, Memorial Bench Sponsor Request:** Mr. Vaulkhard's family sponsored a memorial bench at Weir Beach back in 2013 or 2014. The 10 year maintenance period originally paid for is near expiring and the family wishes to continue to maintain the bench for another 10 year period.

**Actions** – Ryan to review the condition of this bench and estimate the cost of maintenance over the next 10 years. Provide this cost to staff for dissemination back to Mr. Vaulkhard.

Ryan to request a current list of benches from district staff.

Staff to contact Mr. Vaulkhard and advise they'll provide him with a cost once they've received it from Ryan.

**9. Other Business**

- a) **Feasibility Study on Duke Road East Trail:** Councillor Shukin has informed the Community Planning Committee that PTASC and some residents of the Albert Head area will be proceeding with a feasibility study for a Duke Road East trail. PTASC to coordinate.

Suggested steps include:

- securing survey plans for a section of road, and attempt to find property pins
- get a sense if surface area allows for a trail to be constructed
- determine what expertise Albert Head residents can bring to the project

**Action:** Councillor Shukin to lead the early coordination of this feasibility study, enlisting the Trails Coordinator and some Albert Head residents to form a group to move forward.

Councillor Shukin to inform Community Planning Committee that there's a ~\$10K estimate for surveying, and request authority to spend from 2023 PTASC budget if the feasibility study deems the trail construction feasible.

- b) **Proposed Rezoning Application Referral, 4696 Beckingham Road** – this type of subdivision application does not require 5% park dedication. PTASC recommendation from the previous site visit with members of the development team still apply – a trail from the Galloping Goose to the north-east corner of the property should be developed; roadside trails within the subdivision should be constructed.

**Action** – Mark to document these points and provide to the district as PTASC's feedback.

- c) **Mount Ash Trail Repairs** – previously covered.
- d) **Christmas Social** – will be held at the January, 2024 meeting. Alumni should be invited.

**10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

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

The next meeting will be held on January 16, 2024, or at the call of the Chair.