

Roberts Creek Official Community Plan Committee (RCOCPC) Meeting

Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2016

Roberts Creek Community Hall

Present: Dianne Sanford (Chair), Scott Avery, Sheila Wilson, Bryan Gaudry Dana Wilson, Graham Starsage, Mike Allen, John Gibbs, Emily Cook, Doug Fugge, Carolann Glover, Mark Lebbell (Director)

Agenda:

1. **Welcome** and introductions of new members.
2. **Role** and history of OCPC.
3. **Election** of Chair.
4. **Adopt minutes** of Nov 11, 2015 meeting.
5. **Review of 2015** – major discussions and referrals from 2015.
6. **Knotweed** – next steps.
7. **Director's Report** - Mark Lebbell
8. **Carolyn Mortensen attending - Beach Access**
Update about locations for/types of signage and discuss Henderson Beach knotweed.
9. **New Business** – local restoration project.
10. **Adjourn.**

1. Welcome and Introduction of New Members

Action: Sheila will forward *OCPC Protocols* and *OCPC Contact Information* to members.

2. Role and History of the OCPC

- Doug and Helen Roy called a meeting in 1992. 54 people originally developed the plan. Doug had prepared a survey - 78% of the people said it was the trees that they most valued about Roberts Creek.
- Our role is to ensure that the essence, goals and objectives of the *Roberts Creek OCP* are followed. Meetings are @ 7 pm, the second Tuesday of each month at Roberts Creek Elementary. Agenda items generally originate from one of three sources: SCRD staff referrals, Mark Lebbell, or OCPC members can recommend topics. Public is welcome to attend all meetings but must notify us if they wish to act as a delegation.
- Protocols were handed out to new members.

pdf version of the OCP: <http://www.scrd.ca/Roberts-Creek>

If you click on *CREEK OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN*, you are directed to the main body. Maps need to be downloaded separately from the page above.

3. Election of Chair

- Scott nominated Dianne to continue in her role as Chairperson. Dianne was acclaimed and accepted with the condition that she only commit to the position for one year.
- It was decided, in order to have more equal number of positions open for election each year, that two newly-elected members would agree to accept only one-year terms. Dana Wilson and Dianne Sanford have decided to accept one-year terms.

Action: Sheila will tag this in the results of November 2015 Election.

4. Adopt Minutes of November 11, 2015 Meeting.

Graham moved to accept. Scott seconded.

5. Major Referrals of 2015

- Goldmoss Gallery
- Transition House
- Medical Marijuana

6. Henderson Beach Knotweed Project

The SCRDR sponsored a post in the paper and erected two 2 signs stating that the 17 boats down at the site need to be removed by January 31st. This early ad, while appreciated, is concerning to the OCPC as work will not commence until the spring and there was no communication with the OCPC.

David Polster is a bio-engineer and an expert from Duncan looking into alternative knotweed removal techniques. Cut, don't pull, every 2 weeks beginning in late May – early June (or when shoots start to emerge), continuing through to the the first frost. You need to be absolutely meticulous with it, keeping all leaves off of the plant preventing it from photosynthesizing. David recommended that the cuttings were laid on matting to dry in the dry summer – if done properly it won't spread. Our plan is to have two people cut every two weeks beginning in the late spring.

Dana has begun a list of interested volunteers. Dave Stiles and Michelle Evelyn (Wildlife Project) have offered funding and the Invasive Species Committee has offered to do some training.

6. Director's Report

January 2016 edition of *Boot Tales* covers some major topics including:

- Dakota Ridge
- The bridge broken in Cliff Gilker,
- Land behind RC Hall
- Beach access signs
- Upcoming bylaw public hearings:
 - Amendment of our OCP to update our Geotechnical Development Permit Areas (www.scrd.ca/Geotechnical-Updates)
 - Agricultural (A) zoning in ALR lands (www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2015/2015-Dec-10_PDC_Agenda_Package.pdf)
- Emergency Preparedness/Resilience: Sunday morning, February 21st @ RC Hall
- The Sunshine Coast Housing Committee is putting together a Strategic Plan to Develop Affordable Housing on the Sunshine Coast.

7. Carolyn Mortensen – Parks Department General Manager

SCRDR Master Plan and Trails Strategy

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was rewritten. The RD is planning a Trails Strategy next year, which will incorporate beach accesses in the plan.

Beach Accesses

Last year there was some funding dedicated to improve beach accesses and signage. The accesses are owned by the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) and the SCRDR must apply for a permit with MOTI to build/maintain trails. The RD hopes to get a better understanding of the accesses and is still waiting for a few permits.

20 access points have been targeted along the Sunshine Coast, 10 of which are within Roberts Creek. John Gibbs has been helping Carolyn to prioritize beach access points here in RC and as a result, the following trailheads have been identified for improved access/signage: Henderson Rd, Park Ave, Marlene, Beeman, Edmonds, Metcalfe, Cherylann, Clough, Geddes, Gulf.

A sample of the plastic signage was brought in with mixed reviews. OCPC members voiced a distinct preference for yellow cedar signs emulating the west coast rustic style as recommended in the November 2015 meeting. One member questioned whether the Sechelt Nation was consulted as they have certain rights and the response was, "no." A preference for locally-made signs was stated. The SCRDR has chosen plastic; with only 6 employees to service the entire coast, they need to minimize costs. The signs will be consistent across the entire coast with postings both along the roads and on the beach itself in order to help people find their way back. Civic addresses and public guidelines will appear on each of the metal signs.

Carolyn has heard through Mark Lebell that RC residents prefer wooden signs and benches, and wooden benches/tables are being considered for parks. Carolyn anticipates some resistance from beach-front owners who might not want a sign erected on or near their property inviting public access. Because these are legally public access points, the signs will be posted regardless of push-back. Carolyn would appreciate some help with positive promotion in the community, to minimize resistance. Signs are expected to be posted by the spring. Carolyn is happy to keep working with John on this issue.

Henderson Beach Knotweed:

The RD has received a permit for development on the west side of the beach and the east side has no permit yet; MOTI won't provide permit until knotweed is eradicated. With a nod to our knotweed experiment, the RD has posted signs asking boat-owners to relocate boats until the knotweed has been dealt with. At present, the boats sit upon much of the knotweed that needs to be cut. Carolyn understood that we wanted the notification up by January. The SCRCD is trying to support but it isn't their responsibility. RD is willing to create a split rail fence for boats to be leaned against, which would make boat removal more do-able.

3. During a major storm in December, the long metal bridge in Clif Gilker was broken by a tree. With one salvageable section, the remaining portion will be air-lifted out. There is funding to replace the bridge with wood that was salvaged in a local park.

4. Roberts Creek Hall Parkland: A head engineer looked at the land and Carolyn is happy to meet with the group. There are funds to meet to talk about options.

New Business:

Local Restoration Project

Dianne and David Polster are spearheading a restoration project at Flume Beach, hopefully involving the local school. Invasives (blackberry) will be removed; beach nourishment will address erosion; and natives will be planted.

Bike and Kayak Cleaning Station

Doug mentioned that there is talk in the community about a bike and kayak cleaning station.

Next meeting February 10, 2016 @ 7:00 pm at RC Community School