

Roberts Creek Official Community Plan Committee (RCOCPC)

Meeting Minutes: March 14, 2012

Roberts Creek Community School

Present: Elaine Futterman(Chair), Norma Brow, Dianne Sanford, Mike Allegretti, Roger Richmond, Scott Avery, Kirsten Rowkins, Carolann Glover, Sheila Wilson

Regrets: Donna Shugar, Mark Lebbell, Chris Motloch,

Guests: Allison Lindsay

Agenda: The following agenda was agreed upon:

- 1) Approve agenda
- 2) Approve previous minutes
- 3) OCP Review Update
- 4) Pedestrian Project Feedback
- 5) SC Trail Society
- 6) ELF Discussion
- 7) RC RD Safety Issue
- 8) DFO & Oysters
- 9) Director's Report
- 10) Next Meeting

1) Agenda was approved

2) Approval of Previous Minutes

Roger moved and Dianne seconded that the minutes of February 8, 2012 be adopted.

3) OCP Review Update

April 1, from 10:00 to 2:30, there will be a "Public Conversation" at the Roberts Creek Hall to invite Public input to the draft OCP. Stations with poster boards for various topics will be set up and Committee members will be on hand to solicit feedback from attendees. A short presentation and Q&A will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Invite your contacts.

4) Pedestrian Project Feedback

Feedback on the project to upgrade pedestrian paths in the Village Core is well underway. Comments have generally been favorable.

The RCCA meeting on March 28, will have an item to create the plan for planting in this area. The day of implementing this plan will be April 21 the day before Earth Day. Mark your calendars.

5) SC Trail Society

Mike attended the recent SCTS meeting. March 17 and 24 there will be trail building workshops. Meet at the Sechelt Airport at 10:00 to help and learn about trail building and the new route over Chapman Creek. Contact Sue Ducksworth or Elsie Rudland for details. Motorizes recreation user did not like the signs proposed for trails as they do not depict their activities. No additional signage will be installed until the Trails Strategy has been developed. Next meeting is the 3rd Monday of every second month. Sheila expressed interest in attending as an alternate to Mike. She is a member of the RCCA as required.

6) ELF Discussion

ELF send out a message “that an important old-growth, yellow-cedar forest, has finally been granted protection status by the Province. The Dakota Ridge Ancient Forests (as we named it) will become part of an Old Growth Management Area (OGMA) set aside to protect bio-diversity and social values.” ...” It was a community-wide effort. Thanks to the volunteer trail-builders and shishalth elders for their support.”...

“It was also revealed last week, that logging will never take place within the lower Mt. Elphinstone Prov. Park section. Its been the called the 'Heart of the Park' block. ...This old forest will also be designated an OGMA. BC Parks has always stated that the 139Ha Mt Elphinstone Prov. Park (in 3 separate sections) is too small and vulnerable to adjacent logging. So, that's great news - 2 new protected areas for our lower Sunshine Coast Forests.”

There was also a notice that TrailFest-Wagon Forest cutblock has been sold to a log home builder based in Pemberton, Continental Log Homes. They are requesting that people write to this company request that trails with a buffer be maintained.

7) RC Rd Safety Issue

At the last Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, that Mark attends, the safety concerns for Roberts Creek Rd was brought up. There have been recent accidents and an Engineering report has been called for to look into options. This committee will be forwarded a copy of the report. The barricades near Cedar Grove may need to be removed. The S curve at Beach was also identified as a problem area.

8) DFO & Oysters

Dianne brought attention to a proposed change to the Fisheries Act that is concerning. Harper government's alleged plan to remove habitat protection from the federal Fisheries Act. The changes to the Act will remove the most important protection that we have for the freshwater and marine habitat that Canada's fish species depend upon. It also threatens long-established coastal industries such as commercial and sport fisheries, ecotourism, and fish processing plants.

She offered to draft a letter to send to MP's and the Prime Minister for distribution to our contacts to express opposition to this move.

In addition, she also passed only that the province has turned over all of the wild Pacific Oyster commercial fishery to the department of fisheries and Oceans as part of the court case a couple of years ago. The province used to have 45 beaches that this fishery took place on; DFO is entering into consultations in the next while (date unknown) where they are going to introduce initially this fishery on 15 beaches where 10% of the estimated biomass on the beach can be harvested commercially. (not tenured)

These beaches are of course beaches that are also open to the public since not tenured nor declared 1st Nations reserve but could potentially become seeded for commercial oyster harvesting.

9) Director's Report

Donna was absent but Elaine provided some updates.

SCRD 2012 budget has been completed. The increase in taxes will be under 2.25% depending on functions that each Electoral Area participates in.

Implementation of Zero Waste and improvements to Rec sites are a couple of the factors for the increase. Bike path expansion from Woodley east is planned, minor improvements for Henderson, playground improvements for Cliff Gilker and possible partnering with Fortis BC to construct a separated bike path west of Pell are also in the budget.

10) *Next meeting will be April 11, 2012 same time, same place*

OCP Review Items:

The following items have been identified so far:

1. Addition of a mission statement
2. Road allowances – conversion to paths/Greenways
3. Change bylaws to permit home based business proprietors to be able to teach or offer classes.
4. Property usages
5. More types of unique zoning.
6. Downtown parking (new)
7. Terms of reference and a mission statement
8. Short term rentals

Parking Lot

Amphibian Habitat Restoration Area