

Roberts Creek Official Community Plan Committee (RCOCPC)

Meeting Minutes: March 12, 2014

Roberts Creek Community School

Present: Dianne Sanford (Chair), Sheila Wilson, Billy Davis, Nicola Kozakiewica, Heather Gatz, Graham (Starsage) Shipley, Mike Allen, Dana Wilson, Donna Shugar (Director), Karen Spicer, Naomi Fleschhut

Absent: Scott Avery, Lesley Roberts, Amanda-Rae Hergesheimer, Robin Chauhan, Carolann Glover

The following agenda was agreed upon and approved:

1. Adopt minutes from February 12 meeting.
2. SCR D Dissemination of Information to OCPC
3. Video of Meetings (OCPC & SCR D)
4. Draft Agricultural Plan
5. Invasive Plant Control
6. Connecting with other OCPCs
7. Beach Avenue Walking Path
8. Directors Report
9. Adjourn

1. *Adopt Minutes from February 12 Meeting.*

Nicky motioned and Graham seconded to adopt February 12, 2014 minutes.

2. *SCR D Dissemination of Information to OCPC*

Dianne contacted SCR D. Referrals to OCPC will continue to be forwarded to committee via Chair, as per our discussion in February.

3. *Video of Meetings*

i) *OCPC Meetings:* Dana audio taped today's meeting. Next month we will again discuss whether we would like to video or audiotape our meetings. Some objections were raised.

ii) *SCR D Meetings:* According to Steve Sleep, Coast Cable is mandated to dedicate a set number of either money or hours (Donna is unsure) to community programming, which they do. If Coast Cable did film SCR D meetings, they would not live-stream local government programs, but would instead air government programming on their cable network. If they taped the SCR D meetings, they would also be under obligation to offer this service to the Sechelt Band, the Town of Gibsons, and the Town of Sechelt. This would consume their funding, which makes filming SCR D meetings unfeasible. If the SCR D bought equipment, filmed, and produced the footage, Coast Cable would likely air it. The SCR D was quoted \$20000 to install the necessary equipment, and they would need to pay for staff; Donna doesn't see it as practical. The issue has been referred to 2015 so it may be revisited at this time. SCR D does audio-tape all but in-camera meetings, and maintains the files for three months for internal and public use. The public is invited to attend all SCR D meetings with the exception of a select number of in-camera meetings.

4. *Draft Agricultural Plan*

OCPC comments were submitted to the SCR D and the reply from Gregory Gebka was emailed to committee.

5. *Invasive Plant Control*

Graham had nothing new to report. Donna alerted the group to the identification of and potential infestation of a new fruit fly that destroys soft fruit. This insect has already become problematic in the Powell River area.

Committee would like to find out if, when, and how Round-Up will be applied to the invasive knotweed that continues to spread here on the Coast. The RCOCP technically has no control over the vegetation along the highway; it is under the jurisdiction of the MOT, which limits our attempts to influence knotweed management. The SCR D committed \$1000 to the Council to be used for public education. Because many public members are likely unaware that the MOT treats roadside knotweed with Round-Up, Sheila will invite the Invasive Species Council to have a booth at Earth Day. The contact person is Steve Olmstead, SCR D Planning.

6. *Connecting with Other OCPC's*

There is little to talk about, as other OCPCs do not exist,

7. *Beach Avenue Walking Path – funded by gas tax revenue*

The SCR D Parks Division is proposing to build a 1.5 meter-wide gravel shoulder walking path along Beach Avenue, which would run along the undeveloped right-of-way between the junctions of Roberts Creek Road and Cedar Grove Road for approximately 1 km. Most of the community is very supportive, although a few concerns have been raised including the possibility that the path might be wrongfully used for parking. Property owners with hedges may lose their hedges. Easements will need to be secured from property owners whose property lines intersect with the proposed pathway. SCR D Staff is hosting a "Community Walk and Talk" on March 29 from 1-4 pm for community members to gain additional information. Meet in front of the Gumboot Café. Proposed project cost: \$150,000.

Dianne will send an email to Sam Adams to say that OCPC is very supportive of the proposed walking path.

8. *Directors Report*

- Medical Marijuana Public Hearing: There were 12 people who attended last night's meeting which lasted almost 3 hours. Most attendees were small operators, concerned that their needs would not be accommodated. If no bylaw change occurs, no marijuana production would be permitted except for in the ALR. SCR D staff has been given the task of figuring out how small producers can operate and they project to have this information complete by September. Whether to accept the current proposed bylaw amendment will be discussed at next Thursday's Planning Meeting.
- Donna submitted the grant application to BC Healthy Communities for proposed Community Garden.
- An RFP (Request for Proposals) for curbside pick-up of recyclables was issued.
- Budget will be finalized tomorrow.

- The SCRD portion of property taxes are going to cost residential property owners about 6% over last year. The increase is attributed to higher landfill costs generated by the management of green waste and recreational facility expenses. Energy retrofits in SCRD corporate assets has contributed to the increased costs but these energy investments should decrease costs over the long run through a reduction in overall energy consumption.

Other Business:

- Dianne will send some information on *Geoduck Aquaculture*. Tomorrow night at the Sechelt Arts Center, Dianne will give a presentation on *Eel Grass and Shorelines*.
- *Earth Day*
The South Coast Conservation Program has also received \$1000 to disseminate public information, so Sheila will contact them to see if they can attend Earth Day. (Naomi will send contact information to Sheila.)

OCPC Table: Graham and possibly Robin can host an OCPC table at Earth Day. Sheila will check in with the RCCA to see if they will be represented at Earth Day. Perhaps they can share a space with the OCPC.

- *Logging*: The discussion of the proposed 1500 hectare park on Mt Elphinstone was tabled until next month's meeting.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2014