

# Roberts Creek Official Community Plan Committee (RCOCPC)

**Meeting Minutes: April 20, 2011**

**Roberts Creek School**

Present: Elaine Futterman, Mike Allegretti, Norma Brow, Roger Richmond, Scott Avery, Sheila Wilson, John Ennis, Jeff Rosnau,

Regrets: Dianne Sanford, Mark Lebbell, Carolann Glover, Donna Shugar,

Guests: Elise Rudland

Director:

Absent:

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- Agenda:* The following agenda was agreed upon:
- 1) Approve agenda
  - 2) Approve previous minutes
  - 3) Trails SCTSociety Update
  - 4) Invasive Species / Pest Management Plan
  - 5) Illegal Dumping
  - 6) OCP Review Items
  - 7) OCP Review Open House May 14
  - 8) Other
  - 9) Next Meeting

1) *Agenda was approved*

2) *Approval of Previous Minutes:*

Mike moved and Scott seconded that the minutes of March 14, 2011 be adopted.

3) *Trails Update*

Elise Rudland Chair of the SCTS was our guest and had some trail signs that were being offered to be used on Robert Creek trails.

She started by talking about some background of her trails involvement on the coast. She was a key player in the Halfmoon Bay Greenways initiative and wanted to ensure favourite trails were protected. When the SCTS formed with a mandate to develop and be stewards of trails on the coast it was thought to be a positive route for trail protection. Initially the SCTS was driven by mountain bikers and contacts/money from the old Ministry of Forest when they divested the responsibility for recreation. Since these trails are on Crown Land an option for protected status was through registration as with Section 57 status. As it turns out this does not necessarily protect the trail areas from logging. About 5 years ago logging in the community forest took place and the section 57 designation was ignored.

Some money was made available for signage to support the Halfmoon Bay Greenways trails. There was some money left so signage was proposed for trails in Roberts Creek.

Last year Elise presented signs to this committee that were modelled after standards adopted for symbols and colours to represent usage and difficulty of trails. There were concerns at that time that the signage showed bicycles and trail names colour coded by degree of difficulty but no symbols for hikers or other potential trail users. This time she had signs with cycle and hiker symbols and still some committee members felt that the without a trail strategy in place that for anyone to designate user groups at the exclusion of others is

unacceptable. The SCTS as holder of the Section 57 wanted to get signage in place so that users won't get lost or end up on trails beyond their fitness or skill level.

Although there was general support for signage including maps and code of conduct guidelines there was no agreement on whether these signs are appropriate.

Other comments made were:

Use community mapping tools to raise awareness

Use GPS and smart phones to identify marker locations and access information about the trails.

Put up these signs – to be mounted on cedar posts - as they are already produced and see how the broader public reacts to the perceived exclusivity of the user symbols depicted.

Scott agreed to determine how the signs can be modified to remove the symbols and use just the colour rating and trail names.

The SCTS will start by getting the marker post installed and await further feedback from the committee.

#### **4) *Invasive Species / Pest Management Plan***

A meeting was held at the Hall on March 28 with Melissa Noel, Coordinator for Coastal Invasive Plant Committee (CIPC), Amber Smith, Environmental Coordinator, MoTI and Crystal Wheeler. It is apparent that although the period for public consultation was advertised the public education component and local representation was nonexistent. Attendees reported that they were left with the impression that we have no choice other than herbicides to control the worst of the invaders. Crystal spoke of the choice that Bella Coola made to control invasives on their own, without chemicals. She is returning there next month, as they have given up on the idea. Lost the battle, so to speak.

Dianne will attend the AGM of the CIPC on Vancouver Island on May 19.

Elise mentioned Halfmoon Bay efforts to “Lower the Boom and Broom in Bloom” where a workshop was held to raise awareness and work on eradicating Broom in the area.

Salish Soils is a new local composting business. The seeds of some invasive plants can survive the relatively low heat generated by composting. Some will be killed off.

#### **5) *Illegal Dumping***

Illegal Dumping sites have been mapped by the SCRd. Although there are insufficient funds to clean up these sites, members of the public can request a truck and free tipping but the work will need to be done by volunteers.

#### **6) *OCP Review Items***

The standing OCP Review Items as recorded at the end of minutes were review and the list revised according to items that have been addressed at the OCP Review process. A revised list remains.

#### **7) *OCP Review Open House May 14***

The format will have station for 8-9 topics with committee members being resources at each station. Invite your neighbours.

#### **8) *Next Meeting***

The next meeting will be May 18, 2011.

*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