

Roberts Creek Official Community Plan Committee (RCOCPC)

Meeting Minutes: October 19, 2011

Roberts Creek School

Present: Elaine Futterman, Norma Brow, Scott Avery, Sheila Wilson, Dianne Sanford, Mike Allegretti, Roger Richmond, Mark Lebbell, Linda Hoechstetter,

Regrets: Jeff Rosnau,

Guests: Carolann Glover

Director: Donna Shugar,

Absent: John Ennis

Agenda: The following agenda was agreed upon:

- 1) Approve agenda
- 2) Approve previous minutes
- 3) BCTS Letter
- 4) Trail Society – AGM, Trail Strategy
- 5) Parks & Rec Master Plan - Community Meeting
- 6) Fortis Building – Dark Sky
- 7) OCP Elections
- 8) Invasive Plants
- 9) Forage Fish
- 10) Draft OCP Copies
- 11) Directors Report
- 12) Next Meeting

1) Agenda was approved

2) Approval of Previous Minutes:

Scott moved and Mike seconded that the minutes of September 7, 2011 be adopted.

3) BCTS Cut Blocks

A letter was written over the summer to Norm Kempe, Planning Forester, BCTS Campbell River to express our concerns regarding the BCTS Mt Elphinstone sales schedule for 2011/2012. The main points were that the planned activities would extend some existing very large cut blocks and log in old growth forest areas. The committee agreed to submit this letter to the Coast Reporter newspaper to contribute to the public dialogue on this issue. Local volunteers have been leading walks into this area to education the public and encourage the province to prevent these important recreational areas from being logged.

4) Trail Society Update

AGM is next Monday at Cap U campus. Elsie Rudland will be presenting initial plans about trail strategy and funding to the SCRDR Planning Committee.

Linda and Sheila reiterated their impressions that the society is open to input and are not attempting to be exclusive.

5) Parks & Rec Master Plan

There will be a community meeting on Nov 2 at the SIB Hall at 7:00PM. Pre-registration is required.

6) Fortis Buildings

The recently constructed small metal building at the north west corner of Roberts Creek Rd and the Highway has 2 outside lights that come on in the dark which are unshielded and create a strong glare. Donna contacted the SCR D Building Dept and the permit is still active. She requested that the light fixtures be modified or replaced to shield the light. A similar building was constructed several years ago at Lower Road near the cemetery and Pine Rd.

Mark agreed to write a letter to FortisBC to request that the lights be modified to follow the Night Sky Friendly Guidelines that have been adopted by the SCR D. Additionally, the committee agreed that the building's facade is not very attractive. Mark will also ask if a mural could be done at both buildings to disguise the industrial looking facade - light blue metal siding. He will also enquire if funding for the mural creation could be provided by FortisBC.

7) OCPC Elections

OCPC Elections will be held at the RC Hall on Nov 23. The regular RCCA meeting scheduled for that night has been cancelled and hall decorating will be underway, but the election must go on anyway.

Mark, Norma, Scott and Sheila have a second year on their term.

Dianne and Roger are planning to stand for re-election, with Mike and Elaine undecided. Linda has decided to step down.

Jeff has moved off coast and John has not been in regular attendance to will be asked to step down.

8) Invasive Plants

Dianne reported that BC Parks had a one day workshop to develop a strategy to respond to invasive species in Provincial Parks. They seem to have agreed with the general notion that herbicides are the only option.

9) Forage Fish

Dianne is a trainer for The Streamkeepers Society, which helps educate and coordinate stream enhancement activities. Forage fish, including surf smelt and herring spawn, live in the upper intertidal zone are essential for salmonids making up for 60% of their diet. There have been some successful restoration projects in West Vancouver and on Denman Island. The question of whether the OCP supports forage fish habitat was posed.

Dianne will propose some additional language for the new OCP and circulate to the group. Dianne also reported that some restoration projects have been proposed for Flume Creek where some damage was done by tree removal by landowners near the waterfront at Camp Douglas.

10) Draft OCP

The draft OCP received First Reading on Thursday October 27, 2011 and is currently undergoing formal public consultation, including Public Information Meetings and referrals that will last for at least the rest of 2011.

Elaine distributed paper copies of the draft OCP for members of the committee who had not yet received a copy.

11) Directors Report

Donna has received a lot of comments regarding the planned installation of BCHydro's "Smart Meters". There has been a lot of controversy in the media regarding the cost of the program, perceived privacy issues and unhealthy radio frequency waves. A representative from BCHydro did a presentation to the SCRD board and staff to dispel some of the misunderstanding about Smart Meters. The public has unfounded fears about Privacy issues as the only thing that the smart meter gathers information about is energy consumption. Health risks are very much lower than many people fear with the levels of energy emitted being well under internationally acceptable levels of risk. Donna plans to suggest that the board discuss how to disseminate good info.

The Community Forest has agreed to a full environmental assessment regarding potential effects of logging in the Wilson Creek watershed. Donna and some other community representatives have been requested to provide input on the Terms of Reference for the assessment which is a very positive direction.

In advance of the upcoming municipal elections, RCCA is hosting an all candidates meeting next Wednesday at the Hall. School Trustee candidates, however, will not be part of this discussion. Advanced polls will be on two Wednesdays - Nov 9 and Nov 16 – from 8am to 8pm at the Gibsons and Area Community Centre or the SCRD offices on Field Rd. General voting day is Saturday Nov 19 from 8am to 8pm at Roberts Creek Elementary School. Volunteers or donations are readily accepted.

12) Next Meeting

November 16, 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