

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
June 24, 2014 at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor D. Murdock

Members: Kevin Brown, Harry Drage, Roberta Hesselgrave, Jude Coates, Hal Gibbard

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Environmental Services Manager; Cory Manton, Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas Manager; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Al-Nashir Charania, Mary Haig-Brown, Marie Vander Heiden

MINUTES

MOVED by H. Gibbard and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held May 27, 2014 be adopted."

CARRIED

2013 ANNUAL REPORT ON INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

The Manager of Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas presented and the following was noted:

- Pest management is an integral part of the design process for the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM).
- The goal is to identify design problems that may increase the risk of pests or which will make maintenance activities difficult or more costly in the future.
- Cultural control utilizes mulch for suppressing weeds and moderating soil temperature.
- Manual control involves regular maintenance activities; weeding, pruning, and aerating.
- Biological controls have been utilized with the release of Lady Bird Beetles.
- The Invasive Species Management Strategy (ISMS) pertaining to plants, goal is to "Prevent, reduce, control and mitigate the effects of invasive species on natural ecosystems, human health and the economy."
- Saanich Parks commissioned the Gary Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team to develop management recommendations and BMP's for invasive grass species at Playfair Park.
- Saanich has partnered with several regional groups for the prevention of new invasive species.
- Staff have helped to raise the awareness of the impacts of invasive species to Saanich staff and the public through the Pulling Together Volunteer Program and various work parties throughout the year.
- Direct contact with the public helps promote positive behaviour to encourage active public involvement in invasive species management.

- Specific priority invasive species require a combination of control methods that includes the use of herbicides.

Motion: Moved by H. Gibbard and Seconded by K. Brown, “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee receive the 2013 Annual Report on Integrated Pest Management, June 16, 2014 report from the Manager of Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas.”

CARRIED

NOXIOUS WEED BYLAW REVISION AND THE PESTICIDE BYLAW

The Manager of Environmental Services provided an update on the Noxious Weed Bylaw revision and the Pesticide Bylaw and the following was noted:

- The Noxious Weeds Bylaw was originally written to protect agriculture but is now primarily used to control tall grasses and the bylaw lacks clarity regarding invasive species.
- The bylaw receives few complaints over agricultural weeds. By comparison over 60% of the complaints received under the bylaw were regarding overgrown lawns, tall grasses and lawn weeds.
- An updated bylaw is needed that can be used effectively in combination with educational outreach for the Saanich resident to address the concerns of today, align the bylaw with the goals and strategies of the Invasive Species Management Strategy, with provincial legislation, and to address enforcement, compliance and administrative issues.
- The process to revise the bylaw is a two year initiative.
- Saanich held a public open house and a citizen survey in 2013 to gather information to aid in the bylaw revision.
- Page 4, Section 6 of the Pesticide Bylaw addresses the use of pesticides against noxious weeds.
- Few applications for pesticide use are handed in to Saanich. The public could be leery of the “red-tape” that could be associated with the application process.
- The Pesticide Bylaw could distinguish between noxious weeds that are established and need to be controlled versus noxious weeds that are new and could be eradicated.
- Definitions of private lands, residential properties, commercial properties and ALR lands needs to be clarified within the Pesticide Bylaw.

SIGNIFICANT TREE #169: 18-3993 COLUMBINE WAY

Update from the Manager of Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas on the grant for work to Significant Tree tag #169.

GRANT APPROVAL FOR SIGNIFICANT TREE # 169 – 18-3993 Columbine Way (PINE)

The following quote was considered for pruning of deadwood:

- Capital Tree Services (\$393.75)

Motion: MOVED by J. Coates and Seconded by K. Brown: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$393.75 provided by Capital Tree Services be paid to the applicant.”

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2014

The Manager of Environmental Services provided a verbal update on Environmental Awards June 10, 2014. The event was well received.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 23, 2014.

Saanich Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary