

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
January 27, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor D. Murdock

Members: Kevin Brown, Al-Nashir Charania Jude Coates, Mary Haig-Brown, Harry Drage, Hal Gibbard, George Klima

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

Regrets: Roberta Hesselgrave

MINUTES

MOVED by M. Haig-Brown and Seconded by H. Gibbard: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held November 25, 2014 be adopted."

CARRIED

HOME HEATING OIL

The Chair reviewed the background on home heating oil tanks and facilitated a discussion on the Review of Stakeholder Views and Actions Concerning Prevention of Fuel Oil Spills prepared by The Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia. Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- A regionalized approach to address issues with home heating oil tanks should be considered.
- An unexpected number of newer and above ground tanks are failing.
- It has been suggested that underground tanks do not fail as frequently as the newer above ground tanks.
- How are the decommissioned tanks from the past certified inert?
- Complex relationship between the municipality and the Provincial Emergency Plan with respect to jurisdiction when home heating oil tanks fail.
- Accountability for tank integrity could be shared between the home owner and the fuel provider.
- The Chair will be participating on a Panel for Managing Home Heating Oil Tanks being held at Spectrum Secondary School on Thursday January 30, 2015.

INTERGRATED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The Manager of Underground Services presented an overview of stormwater management in Saanich. Updating current stormwater management practices will be a complex undertaking. A gap analysis would be useful during the preliminary planning process.

SIGNIFICANT TREES

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

- The website will be updated and committee members will assist in the updating process.
- Bi-yearly the Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas Manager will update the ENA committee with the status of significant tree grants.
- Improvement of public education of the significant tree program will be pursued.
- Expanding ecosystem protection to the area surrounding the significant tree could be considered.
- Communication among bureaucratic departments with respect to significant trees could be improved.
- Crowd sourcing could be useful tool to assist Saanich in managing and identifying significant trees.
- Other initiatives that are being developed by the Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas will be presented at future ENA committee meetings.

1. GRANT APPROVAL FOR SIGNIFICANT TREE # 90 – 1261 Hastings Road (GARRY OAK)

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP10841:

- Bartlett Tree Experts (\$795.00)
- Advantage Tree Care (\$625.00)

Motion: MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by M. Haig-Brown: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$625.00 provided by Advantage Tree Care be paid to the applicant.”

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

The Chair updated the Committee with the Declaration of the Environmental Bill of Rights that was unanimously approved by Council on January 26, 2015. Many school aged children spoke in support of the Declaration. Further refinement of the Declaration will be undertaken in the coming months in preparation for consideration by the delegates at the 2015 meetings of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, The Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in February 24, 2015.

Saanich Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary