

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
September 22, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Councillor Dean Murdock (Chair), Al-Nashir Charania, Harry Drage, Hal Gibbard, George Klima, Kevin Brown, Roberta Hesselgrave, Jude Coates, Mary Haig-Brown

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

Guest: Keil Kodama, Student

Minutes

MOVED by H. Drage and Seconded by A. Charania: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held June 23, 2015, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT 2015-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN-SOCIAL WELL-BEING

The Manager of Environmental Service gave an overview of the strategic planning process and the following was noted:

- Following a series of facilitated workshops, Council has prepared their draft strategic plan for the period covering 2015-2018.
- The document high-lights intended areas of focus for Council across the three Official Community Plan themes of Environmental Integrity.
- Input from the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee is being requested on the Council Priorities that have been identified under the Environmental Integrity corporate theme of Sustainable Environment in the Plan.
- There are no changes to the long-term indicators in the draft Strategic Plan.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Annual water consumption there is a discrepancy between the annual score card value and the value in the draft strategic plan.
- Climate Action Plan is owned by the Planning Department, but projects are often multi-departmental.
- Disaster preparedness should be mentioned in the Strategic Plan.
- The Regional Growth Strategy does not mention any key performance indicators.
- A compost or recycling metric should be considered.

The Committee thanked the Manager of Environmental Services for the update.

SIGNIFICANT TREE #20-1721 JEFFERSON AVENUE

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP11142:

- Bartlett Tree Experts (\$609.00)
- Advantage Tree Care (\$630.00)

- Dogwood Tree Services (\$1400.00)

Motion: MOVED by J. Coates and Seconded by K. Brown: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$609.00 provided by Bartlett Tree Experts be paid to the applicant.”

CARRIED

PROPOSED SIGNIFICANT TREE TOUR

The Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas Manager facilitated a discussion on the Significant tree Program. Committee discussion occurred and the highlights were noted as follows:

- The ENA committee should be involved with significant tree nominations.
- Committee members should be updated when work is completed on a designated significant tree.
- How is the homeowner informed that there is a designated Significant tree on their property?
 - The information on the designated Significant Tree could be placed on the property information report.
 - A “congratulations” letter could be sent to the new homeowner informing them of the Significant Tree on their property.
- A significant Tree can be on School Board Property, but the School Board has to approve the designation.
- A Significant Tree Tour with staff giving the history and interesting facts on the significant trees will be organized for late spring 2016.
- A draft document listing Saanich Significant Trees was circulated to Committee members.

Motion: MOVED by R. Hesselgrave and Seconded by J. Coates, “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee requests that Parks staff revisit the administrative elements of Saanich Significant Tree program.”

CARRIED

HEATING OIL AND ENERGY COACHING

The Sustainability Coordinator provided updates on an a provincial rebate program for upgrading from a home heating oil tank to a heat-pump and a proposed innovative carbon purchase program, and the following was noted:

- A rebate program commencing on September 1, 2015.
- HERO Top-up Incentives Pilot-customized rebates for Saanich Residents, January 2016.
- Carbon Reduction Incentive Pilot November 2015-Aggregating reductions and potentially more incentives.
- Saanich has sent a letter to 4600 Saanich homes with oil tanks on record informing the home-owner about the rebate program.
- The Sustainability Coordinator will be speaking to Community Association about the rebate program.
- An email and a TV spot on the recreation centre television monitors will also be utilized to inform residents of the rebate program.

UPDATES

EDPA Open House:

- The second of the planned EDPA Open Houses will be held on October...
- The goal of the EDPA Open House is to inform the public about the bylaw and to correct the misinformation circulating about the bylaw.
- Saanich Staff will be present to discuss concerns with property owners.
- Habitat Acquisition Trust will also have a display.

Integrated Pest Management:

- Saanich participate twice (2009, 2013) in the bylaw revision survey.
- Consultation is now closed.
- A requirement for certification for residents for pesticide use will be required if the resident wishes to apply pesticide themselves.
- List on-line of approved general use pesticides.
- Restricted pesticides will be housed in a locked cupboard. Prior to purchasing a restricted pesticide the purchaser must speak to the vender.
- The current Saanich Pesticide Bylaw may need to be updated if the provincial regulation is changed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary