

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2

November 24, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.

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

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Environmental Services Manager; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: ,Al-Nashir Charania

Guests: Harald Wolf; Ian Bruce, Peninsula Streams Society; Larry Leyne

Minutes

MOVED by M. Haig-Brown and Seconded by R. Hesselgrave: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held October 27, 2015, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

GABO CREEK STEWARDSHIP

Mr. Harald Wolf, Saanich resident, provided the Committee with an overview of the status of the Gabo Creek Stewardship. The rezoning of the Fatt property on Dieppe Road has been passed and the funds for a rehabilitation project for the adjacent stretch of Gabo Creek have been made available. The section of Gabo Creek targeted for restoration is along the east side of the berm, south to the Douglas/Dieppe intersection prior to heading west to eventually join the Colquitz Creek.

The land in question is owned by the province, but there is an agreement that Saanich maintain the area to the east of the berm ridge. The Ministry of Transportation has indicated that they are in support of the restoration work in this area. The Peninsula Streams Society have lent their support to the proposed restoration project for the above mentioned portion of Gabo Creek. Mr. Wolf is requesting assistance from Saanich as to the complex jurisdictional issues for this area, to give the Gabo Creek Stewardship group permission to enter the creek and to establish a park to protect the work that is achieved.

The speaker and Committee members discussed the issues and the following was noted:

- There currently is no signage indicating the creek is present in this location.
- It was noted that the development approval process is still in progress.
- Salmon fry have been seen in this section of Gabo Creek.
- Care must be given during restoration work to continue to provide the creek with shade.
- The proposed rehabilitation work on this section of Gabo Creek will facilitate community building, environmental robustness for the creek, and restore a sense of place to the community.

- The Gabo Creek group has pledged their support via volunteerism and fund raising to spearhead this restoration work.
- Every opportunity for water-course rehabilitation in Saanich should be acted upon.

Motion: **MOVED by M. Haig-Brown and Seconded by K. Brown, “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee recommends that Council;**
 a) Support the restoration of Gabo Creek via the Gabo Creek Initiative and Peninsula Streams partnership; and
 b) Support Saanich’s participation in the review of the Gabo Creek restoration concepts.”

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS-BLUE DOT TOUR

The Committee discussed the continued support of the recommendations from the Blue Dot Tour. Committee member Jude Coates will collate ideas from the ENA Committee members and will circulate the material to the Committee in the New Year.

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Committee member George Klima facilitated a discussion on the diversity of the members on the ENA Advisory Committee. Committee members discussed the issues and the following was noted:

- Consideration should be given to increase the diversity of the ENA Advisory Committee across the areas of educational background and socio-demographics.
- Diversification of the membership may led to a more complete understanding of environmental issues in Saanich.
- Depth and breadth of understanding the environmental issues is felt by many Committee Members to be well represented with the current Committee Membership
- It is difficult to attract and kept young Committee Members.
- The Chair will regularly update the ENA Committee Members with the status of motions and activities related to topics discussed at the ENA Advisory Committee Meetings.
- Council pools expertise from the Advisory Committees and from information obtained via public participation opportunities.

UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair provide the Committee with an update and the following was noted:

- A second EDPA Town-Hall is being planned.
- Priority setting will be an agenda item in the New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary