

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2

**February 25, 2014 at 5:15 p.m.**

Present: Chair: Councillor D. Murdock

Members: Kevin Brown, Jude Coates, Harry Drage, Al-Nashir Charania,  
Mary Haig-Brown, Hal Gibbard, Roberta Hesselgrave, Marie Vander  
Heiden

Staff: Cory Manton, Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas Manager;  
Gary Darrah, Parks Planning and Design Manager; Steve Holroyd,  
Engineering Planner/Designer; Tricia Demacedo, Environmental Planning  
Officer; Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

Guests: George Klima

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by R. Hesselgrave and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held January 28, 2014 be adopted as amended."**

**CARRIED**

**WILKINSON ROAD/WILKINSON BRIDGE/COLQUITZ RIVER TRAIL**

Mr. S. Holroyd, Engineering Planner/Designer presented and the following was noted:

- This is a joint project between the Parks and Engineering Departments.
- The goal is to upgrade Wilkinson Road from Mann Avenue to Quick's Bottom Trail and includes installation of curb, sidewalks and bike lanes.
- The extension of the Colquitz River Trail will result in a 2.2 kilometer circular pedestrian route.
- Further upgrades include an underpass walkway so that pedestrians will not have to cross Wilkinson Road and replacement of the existing bridge over the Colquitz River at Lindsay Street.

Mr. G. Darrah, Parks Planning and Design Manager presented and the following was noted:

- The vision is to have the Colquitz River Trail connect to Elk/Beaver Lake Park.
- As the municipality has acquired property along Wilkinson Road, trail extensions have been completed.
- Constraints of this project include the topography, grade of slope and location of trees.
- Storm water will be directed to terraced rain gardens before emptying into the Colquitz River.
- This area has a large amount of invasive species which will have to be removed.

In response from questions from the committee, Mr. Darrah and Mr. Holroyd stated:

- The Royal Oak Local Area Plan contains conceptual drawings of existing and proposed trails.
- Conceptual drawings will be made available at the Open House.
- The length of the proposed trail extension is 500 meters.

- An Environmental Engineer has been hired and will prepare a detailed report in regards to environmental aspects of the project.
- Parking is not being incorporated in the plan.
- Two new parking spots will be constructed for access to the new community mailbox on Lindsay Street.
- The proposed replacement bridge at Lindsay Street will be considered a "lifeline bridge" meaning it will remain usable following a major earthquake.
- The municipality applied and was approved for a Federal Gas Tax grant for this project.
- The benefits of this project include increasing modal split and removal of invasive species, and enhancements such as rain gardens and storm water management.
- Next steps include holding a public Open House, finalized conceptual design and issuance of a construction tender.
- Construction is expected to begin in 2015 and take approximately 6-8 months to complete.
- Historic high water levels were used to decide the elevation of the trail.
- Elevated boardwalks will be constructed in steep terrain to provide accessibility and minimize tree removal.

**Motion:            MOVED by M. Haig-Brown and Seconded by H. Gibbard: "That the report from Gary Darrah, Parks Planning & Design Manager and Steve Holroyd, Engineering Planner/Designer dated February 11, 2014 be received with thanks."**

**CARRIED**

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Mr. Darrah and Mr. Holroyd left the meeting at 5:55 pm.

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**SIGNIFICANT TREES**

Mr. C. Manton, Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas Manager, presented and answered questions from the committee. The following was noted:

- Guidelines for designation of Significant Trees, information on the grant program and application forms are available on the website.
- It may be beneficial to add scenarios to the guidelines.
- Grant applications will be considered quarterly.
- Information packages will be sent out to private owners of Significant Trees.
- Staff will ensure that all information is received from applicants to allow the committee to make an informed decision.
- The committee stressed the importance of including the species of the tree on the application form and the need for photographs as a way to contextualize.
- The Parks Department funds the grants process.
- Typically grant approval is 50% of the lowest estimate.
- Municipal bylaws do not have jurisdiction on certain properties including schools.
- Councillor Murdock will follow up with the principal at Cedar Hill Middle School in regards to the Significant Trees on the property.
- The committee relayed that it would be helpful to receive the Significant Tree packages a week before the meeting so that they could prepare and attend the site.

**1.        GRANT APPROVAL FOR SIGNIFICANT TREE # 25 - 4875 MAXINE LANE (AMERICAN ELM)**

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP09821:

- Dogwood Tree Services (\$2,520.20)
- Davey (\$2,320.50)
- Bartlett Tree Experts (\$4,284.00)

**Motion:** **MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by J. Coates: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$2,320.00 provided by Davey Tree Services be paid to the applicant.”**

**CARRIED**

**2. GRANT APPROVAL FOR SIGNIFICANT TREE # 165 – 1951 ERNEST AVENUE (GARRY OAK)**

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP09914:

- Island View Tree Service (\$420.00)
- Tomahawk Tree Services (\$650.00)
- Davey (\$800.00)

**Motion:** **MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by J. Coates: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$420.00 provided by Island View Tree Service be paid to the applicant.”**

**CARRIED**

**3. GRANT APPROVAL FOR SIGNIFICANT TREE # 168 – 3993 COLUMBINE WAY (ENGLISH OAK)**

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP09985:

- Bartlett Tree Experts (\$714.00)
- Davey (\$1,000.00)
- Capital Tree Service (\$808.50)

**Motion:** **MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by J. Coates: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$714.00 provided by Bartlett Tree Experts be paid to the applicant.”**

**CARRIED**

**4. GRANT APPROVAL FOR SIGNIFICANT TREE # 169 – 3993 COLUMBINE WAY (PINE)**

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP10140:

- Davey (\$500.00)
- Bartlett Tree Experts (\$703.50)
- Capital Tree Service (\$375.00)

**Motion:** **MOVED by A. Charania and Seconded by K. Brown: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$375.00 provided by Capital Tree Service be paid to the applicant.”**

**CARRIED**

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Mr. Manton left the meeting at 6:45 pm.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS**

Ms. J. Coates presented and the following was noted:

- An Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) is a shift away from individual private property rights to the rights of the collective society.
- If this is something that the committee wishes to pursue, more research is required.
- A Sustainability Action Plan, in conjunction with an EBR, would be more comprehensive and detailed.
- The general concept of an EBR is the implication of development on wildlife and enhancement of educational opportunities.
- An EBR gives residents an avenue to challenge legislation and provides a legal argument to allow access to private property by the municipality.
- An EBR will not create protection measures for not-at-risk species.
- Access to a healthy environment and improved quality of life is the goal of an EBR.
- The EBR is based on three principles: access to environmental projects; participation in consultation processes; and seeking justice from those elected who are not fulfilling their duties.
- Social, environmental and economic factors must be considered when developing an EBR.
- The environment should be a consideration in all decisions.

Councillor Murdock stated:

- Recommendations to Council should be Saanich-specific and improve processes.
- There is value to having environmental education.
- Further review of Ontario's and Santa Monica's implementation plans should take place.
- This item should be brought back to the committee for further discussion.

**STRATEGIC PLAN INDICATORS**

To be discussed at a future meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 25, 2014.

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Saanich Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary