

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
November 25, 2014 at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor D. Murdock

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

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

Regrets: Roberta Hesselgrave

MINUTES

MOVED by H. Gibbard and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held October 28, 2014 be adopted."

CARRIED

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Chair asked the Committee for their thoughts on future topics that could be considered by the Environment and Natural Areas Committee. The Committee felt that the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan and the Farmlands Trust should be revisited. The volunteer organization, Pulling Together, should be invited to give a presentation to the Committee in 2015.

SIGNIFICANT TREES

The Manager of Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas presented and Committee discussion occurred. The following was noted:

- The Environment and Natural Areas (ENA) Advisory Committee could take the lead in promoting and educating the public about the Significant Tree Program.
- A Committee could have a tour of Saanich designated trees in 2015.
- An online manual for Saanich's Significant Trees could be developed. Currently the GIS has a layer which indicates the location of many of Saanich's Significant Trees.
- The ENA Advisory Committee should invest effort in the nomination process of the Significant Tree Program, while leaving the administrative details to the Parks Department.
- The Committee could become involved when the Grant request is in the excess of a predetermined base amount.
- Having the ENA Committee approve the Significant Tree grants keeps Significant Trees in the minds of the Committee Members.
- The Manager of Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas will review the administrative process and report back to the Committee.

1. GRANT APPROVAL FOR SIGNIFICANT TREE # 143 – 1383 SCOULAR PLACE (GARY OAK)

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP10714:

- Dogwood Tree Services (\$945.00)
- Davey (\$900.00)
- Bartlett Tree Experts (\$892.50)

Motion: MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by J. Coates: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$892.50 provided by Bartlett Tree Experts be paid to the applicant.”

CARRIED

2. GRANT APPROVAL FOR SIGNIFICANT TREE # 97 – 3172 EARL GREY STREET (TRUE FIR)

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP10538:

- Davey (\$890.00)
- Bartlett Tree Experts (\$546.00)
- Scotty Tree Service (\$525.00)

Motion: MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by J. Coates: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$525.00 provided by Scotty Tree Service be paid to the applicant.”

CARRIED

NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Manager of Environmental Services updated the Committee with respect to the Noxious Weeds Bylaw revision and the following was noted:

- The Invasive Species Management Strategy (ISMS) recommends that the Noxious Weed Bylaw be amended, including consideration of the current Capital Regional Invasive Species Program (CRISP) regional plant list and management classifications:
 - Prevent – Eradicate if found
 - Eradicate – Eradicate if found
 - Contain- Contain existing infestations and prevent spread
 - Control- Focus control in high value conservation areas
- Exploring landowner incentives to control and properly dispose of invasive species to ensure program sustainability.
- Support elevated response levels on private land for priority species and adjacent to natural areas.
- Continue to inventory high ecological value sites on private land.
- Create an inventory of high priority sites on private lands. Prioritize efforts based on the following criteria:
 - Presence of Species at Risk (Red and Blue Listed Species)
 - Sensitive Ecosystems

- Riparian Areas and the Marine Backshore
- Areas of Community interest
- Best Management practises
- Renaming the bylaw to the Invasive Species Bylaw should be considered.
- Administrative procedures are being developed to address restrictions on the number of complaints an individual can make.
- Four main areas to shape the bylaw revision:
 - Invasive Species Management Strategy
 - Public Participation
 - Invasive Species tool kit for local government
 - Statistics from current bylaw
- The ISMS stresses the importance of communication, collaboration, education, training, disposal options, and restoration which will be important considerations when revising the Noxious Weeds Bylaw.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The word “control” needs to be clearly defined within the revised bylaw.
- Consideration should be given to offering assistance to homeowners who are not able to control the invasive on their own.
- Adding “...from bearing fruit or spreading through root growth and control the plant from growing on a tree” to the revised bylaw with respect to Ivy, was suggested. The intent of this statement is to keep the ivy where the land owner wants it and not beyond the land owner’s jurisdiction.
- Large invasive problems will take longer to bring under control.
- Staff should be available to help advise the public to identify and utilize the appropriate control measure for the particular invasive.
- The revised bylaw should be comparable to what is done to manage invasives on public land.
- Potential to work with realtors and the development community on appropriate plantings.

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