

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2  
**January 26, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.**

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

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Environmental Services Manager; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Steve Holroyd, Engineering Planner; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: George Klima

Guests: Anita Bull; Trish Murphy; Larry Murphy

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### Minutes

**MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by H. Gibbard: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held January 26, 2016, be adopted as amended."**

**CARRIED**

### SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Consensus was that committee meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:15 p.m., excluding July, August and December.

### COLQUITZ BRIDGE UPGRADE AND TREES ALONG WILKINSON ROAD

The Senior Manager, Parks and the Engineering Planner provided an update to the Committee on the Wilkinson Road bridge upgrade project. The Following was noted:

- The bridge will be raised to allow for the trail to run under the bridge.
- Both a loop and stairs will be constructed to allow access to the trail.
- Trees are scheduled to be removed along Wilkinson Road to allow for the construction of the new sidewalk:
  - 92 trees along Wilkinson Road have been identified as requiring removal
  - 19 trees are on Saanich Park land have been identified as requiring removal
  - 5-6 trees are on private property have been identified as requiring removal
- Private property owners have been consulted about the need to remove trees.
- The trees will be replaced at a 2:1 ratio.
- Parks department is working to locate suitable planting areas for all the replacement trees.

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

- Members of the public have indicated that they were not aware of the trees being removed.
- Some of the trees that are identified for removal are significant in size.
- One of the trees scheduled for removal is a bylaw protected significant tree.
- No clear mention of tree removal in past BiPed and ENA minutes. The open-house

- only had a reference to tree loss.
- Another look at reducing the footprint of the bike lane could be done. The bike lane being constructed along this area is already narrow.
- Homeowners of the properties with scheduled tree removal have indicated they are supportive due to issues with maintenance of the trees.
- An effort could be made to “squeeze” the sidewalk around some of the trees should be considered.
- The posting of the notices to remove the trees should have been done earlier to allow for greater public awareness.
- The speed of the tree removal process is a concern.
- The Engineering Planner will speak to the Director of Engineering regarding any potential for narrowing the sidewalk and the resulting number of trees that could be preserved.
- A list of replacement trees and the tree schedule for this project will be forwarded to the ENA Committee members.

## **HOME HEATING OIL PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Sustainability Coordinator gave the Committee updates on the Home Heating Oil Program and 100% renewable energy in municipal facilities. The speaker and Committee members discussed the update and the following was noted:

- Saanich has had the highest uptake in the Province on the rebate program.
- The rebate program will be extended in some form past March 2016.
- It is anticipated that both the federal and provincial governments will have additional energy rebate programs launching in the near future.
- Hydro is considered to be almost 100% renewable energy. Environmental impacts from dams should be considered in the environmental footprint of hydro.
- Natural gas powers hydronic systems.
- Gordon Head Recreation Centre boiler replacement:
  - Construction starting early 2016
  - Air Source heat pump hybrid heating system with natural gas boilers as backup.
  - Resulting in 400 tonnes of GHJG reduced from the Municipal carbon footprint.
  - Transition from 7,800 GJ of natural gas to less than 1000 GJ.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS**

Committee member Jude Coates facilitated a discussion on the Environmental Bill of Rights. Committee members discussed the issues and the following was noted:

- An informal working group will meet to develop the ideas around the issues.
- Use the motion put forward by Councillor Brice as a guide to determine the scope and the end goals for work that Saanich needs to complete to meet the terms of the declaration.

## **PRIORITY SETTING**

- Postponed

\*\* The Chair left the meeting at 6:55 p.m. \*\*  
The Committee appointed Jude Coates Acting Chair.

## **EUROPEAN EXCHANGE**

The Manager of Environmental Services gave a presentation of the European Exchange to Portugal in the fall of 2015.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2016.

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Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary