

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 1

March 22, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

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

Staff: Darren Copley, Environmental Education Officer; Mark Boysen, Sustainability Coordinator; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Jude Coates

Guests: Larry Layne; Tom Hackney, BC Steering Committee; Terry Dans-Fenic, BC Steering Committee; Dave Scott, BC Steering Committee; Marsha Henderson (SCAN)

Minutes

MOVED by M. Haig-Brown and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held February 23, 2016, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

POLLINATORS

Larry Layne presented the Committee with a discussion on pollinators. The speaker and Committee members discussed the issues and the following was noted:

- There has been a significant decline in pollinators.
- Many factors are thought to be contributing to the decline in pollinator populations: pesticide use, herbicide use, commercial bee keeping, and mono-crop farming.
- Restoring native vegetation, and encouraging the planting of flower corridors between natural areas are important for supporting a healthy pollinator population.
- The speaker, some Committee members and a staff member commented that they have noticed a decline in pollinators in the past few years.
- Significant decline in pollinators in North America

The Committee thanked the speaker and will continue the discussion on pollinators at a future meeting.

SAANICH 100% SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSION

Tom Hackney, BC Sustainable Energy Association Steering Committee (BCSEA), presented the Committee with information on helping the capital region develop a concrete plan to be 100% renewable by 2050 and/or to reduce greenhouse gases by 80% below 2007 levels by 2050. The following was noted:

- One thousand mayors worldwide have committed to 100% renewable energy by 2050.
- The City of Vancouver received top honours for its Greenest City Action Plan.
- The federal government has recently announced \$75 million for municipalities to reach low carbon and resilience objectives.
- BCSEA as climate action champions, are eager to act as advocates, advisors and

- ambassadors for CRD municipalities willing to show leadership with reducing their carbon footprint.
- The BCSEA is a volunteer organization.
 - Saanich has encouraged the BCSEA to apply for a sustainability grant to assist in developing its pathway to 100% renewable energy, including a townhall meeting in the fall of 2016.
 - 2050 is a long range target to get municipalities moving toward significant carbon reductions.
 - Improving the energy efficiency of the building stock in Saanich is an opportunity to achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions.
 - Potential conflicts may occur between policy on carbon reduction and business models.
 - Automobile emissions in Saanich are more challenging to address as many vehicles travel through Saanich on route to destinations in other municipalities.
 - A paradigm shift by both the public and governments needs to occur to achieve significant reductions in emissions.
 - Education and public engagements are key components of successful carbon reductions.
 - The committee recommends that the BCSEA develop a plan for the furthering of the low carbon work should the funding be granted.

PRIORITY SETTING

The Committee will have ongoing discussions during the year on setting priorities and the following was noted:

- The Significant Tree Tour was suggested for June 2016.
- The goal is to have a report/action plan on the Environmental Bill of Rights by December 31, 2016.
- Gas pump discussion will be continued at the April 26, 2016 ENA meeting.
- Creek protection updates.
- A Farm Lands Trust update.

UPDATE ON ENA MOTIONS

The Chair updated the Committee on the status of the Microplastics Motion passed by the ENA Advisory Committee in February 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS WORKING GROUP

Committee member Al-Nashir Charania updated the Committee on the initial Environmental Bill of Rights working group meeting and the following was noted:

- A Working Group Charter has been drawn up. The purpose of the Charter is to provide guidelines and direction to the working group.
- The goal of the working group is to develop a report that addresses the gaps in operations at the municipality regarding Environmental Bill of Rights provisions.
- The working group aims to have the gap analysis and recommendations to Council on potential Environmental Bill of Rights measures to implement by December 31, 2016.

The Chair and the Committee thanked Mr. Charania and the members of the working group for the work they are doing.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

The Environmental Education Officer updated the Committee on the progress of the 2016 Environmental Awards event. The special meeting to determine the award recipients will be held on Tuesday May 10 at 5:15 pm in Committee Room #1.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary