

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
May 24, 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, Jude Coates

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager Environmental Services; Brent Ritson, Parks Development Review Coordinator; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Guests: Linda Neville; Margaret McCullough, Teacher, Glenlyon-Norfolk School; Charlotte Brady, Student, Glenlyon-Norfolk School; Grace Poole, Student, Glenlyon-Norfolk School; Anastasia Castro, Glenlyon-Norfolk School; Wendy Newell; Laurie Kelley; Manuela Blankenhorn; Larry Layne

Minutes

MOVED by R. Hesselgrave and Seconded by A. Charania: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held April 26, 2016, be adopted."

CARRIED

GRANT APPLICATION AND DECLARATION OF PROJECT COMPLETION FOR SIGNIFICANT TREE #165 LOCATED AT 1951 ERNEST AVENUE

The Parks Development Review Coordinator, updated the Committee on Significant Tree #165 located at 1951 Ernest Avenue, and the following was noted:

- The significant spread in the estimates received may be due to the differing interpretations of the work needed by the different Arbore care companies.
- Work standards were met for the project.

MOTION MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by J. Coates: "That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee approves the grant payment of 50% of the lowest estimate of \$500.00 (Island View Tree Service) to the applicant."

CARRIED

SIGNIFICANT TREE NOMINATION FORM AND MEMO FOR DOUGLAS FIR TREE LOCATED AT 3913 LAUDER ROAD

The Parks Development Review Coordinator, and the Committee discussed the significant tree nomination for a Douglas fir tree located at 3913 Lauder Road. The following was noted:

- Saanich staff have reviewed the nomination form and visited the property on April 13, 2016 to meet the property owner and gather information on the trees health and structural condition.
- The tree has been pruned numerous times over the past decade to thin out limbs.
- The Douglas fir has branches that overhang a pool in the neighbouring property, 3919 Lauder Road.

- The Douglas fir in question does not meet the criteria under Category of Designation for significant tree designation.
- The previous pruning, thinning and heading of the limbs has reduced ideal specimen criteria for this tree.
- The owner of 3919 Lauder Road has requested the owner of the tree at 3913 Lauder Road have the tree pruned or removed to eliminate risk associated with this tree.
- Saanich Parks is awaiting the submission of an arborist report detailing the health and structural integrity of this tree.
- Some of the criteria for determining if a tree should be designated as significant tree were not applied to the fir tree at 3913 Lauder Road. This tree could be brought forward for consideration at a future time.

MOTION **MOVED by A. Charania and Seconded by G. Klima: “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee supports the recommendation from the Manager of Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas that the Douglas fir tree located at 3913 Lauder Road not be designated as a significant tree.”**

CARRIED

SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS

The Committee welcomed Margaret McCullough, teacher, Grace Pool, Charlotte Brady and Anastasia Castro, students, at Glenlyon-Norfolk School. The students gave an overview on their efforts to eliminate the use of single use plastic bags in municipalities in the CRD, and the following was noted:

- Approximately 2 million plastic bags are used per minute worldwide.
- Many plastic bags are not recycled and are dumped in the oceans and offshore countries.
- The Surf Rider Foundation is working to eliminate the use of single use plastic bags.
- Many plastic bags degrade into microplastics which enter the food-chain.
- The economic and social impacts of single use plastic bags are worldwide.
- Most of the business that were approached by the student were supportive of eliminating their use of plastic bags.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Compostable plastic bags would be a good alternative to single use plastic bags.
- Bio-degradable plastic bags are not environmentally friendly as these bags breakdown into micro plastics.
- The students are encouraged to develop an implementation strategy for the elimination of single use plastic bags.
- An implementation strategy may be a critical component for municipalities to successfully ban single use plastic bags.
- The City of Victoria is currently looking at the banning of single use plastic bags and Saanich could look to see how the process has been implemented in the City of Victoria.

The Committee thanked the speakers and look forward to a future presentation to further discuss the elimination of single use plastic bags.

PRIORITY SETTING

The Chair facilitated a Committee discussion of priority items that the members would like to see explored at future ENA Committee meeting. The following was noted:

- The Significant Tree Tour.
- Climate modelling discussions.

- Updates on the Farmlands Trust.
- Stormwater management.
- Biodiversity in Saanich and a potential biodiversity conservation strategy for Saanich.

WEEDS

Larry Layne provided a brief overview of weeds and providing naturescapes that are beneficial for wildlife.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2016.

Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary