

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
June 28, 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; Jane Evans; Darren Copley; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Guests: Larry Layne

Minutes

MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by J. Coates: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held May 24, 2016, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

POLLINATORS

The Environmental Education Officer gave the Committee an overview of pollinators, and the following was noted:

- BC has approximately 450 species of native bees.
- Approximately 75% of all flowering plants need pollinators.
- In BC there are 35 native bumble bees. The honey bee is not a native bee, but is still an important pollinator.
- Flies, moths, butterflies, ants, beetles and birds are also pollinators.
- One third of every mouthful of food we eat can be attributed to the work of pollinators.
- Saanich's pesticide bylaw is an important step in protecting pollinators.
- The EDPA and the SDPA are also key steps in pollinator protection.
- Pollinators require four basic conditions to thrive:
 - Diversity of plants, with native plants being preferential.
 - Nesting and egg laying habitat
 - Sheltered and undisturbed wintering sites
 - Pesticide free environments
- Limiting roadside mowing is beneficial to pollinator populations.
- Updates to Saanich plant lists could be considered.
- Saanich could develop pollinator demonstration gardens to help educate the public as to pollinator friendly gardening.
- Farm community could be approached with information of supportive practices for pollinators.
- Many diseases that attack the native bee populations are diseases that are imported by non-native bees.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PLAN

The Planner gave the Committee an update on the Agriculture and Food Security Plan, and requested feedback from the Committee. The following was noted:

- The Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Task Force, Upland Agriculture Planning Consultant Ltd and the Saanich Planning Department staff are working on the development of the Agriculture and Food Security Plan (AFSP) for Saanich.
- Work on the AFSP for Saanich has resulted in a Public Engagement Strategy and a Vision Statement for the Plan.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- ALR is under threat and policies need to be in place to secure viable farm land for future generations.
- Stronger policies need to be in place to protect farmland.
- Access, both physical and economic access to food should be included in the definition for food security.
- Will the task force address income and supply issues which are fundamental chain management pieces to create a complete Plan?
- Greenhouses sterilize the land and cause significant pollution.
- To achieve internal consistency the FAO definitions should be used. The Planner will investigate why the FAO definitions were dropped.
- Natural environment and agriculture need to be managed in partnership.

The Committee thanked the speaker and look forward to future presentations to further discuss the Agriculture and Food Security Plan.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PLANNING

The Environmental Manager gave the Committee a brief overview of biodiversity conservation planning. The following was noted:

- Biodiversity conservation strategies for local governments give a big picture overview and highlight conservation priorities.
- An inventory of the biodiversity in Saanich should be compiled as a first step in conservation planning.

Committee discussion occurred and the following comment was noted:

- Presentation of biodiversity concepts and the importance of biodiversity conservation should be given at Community Association meetings and to Saanich citizens.

ENA AWARDS

The Manager of Environmental Services reviewed the 2016 ENA Awards event with the Committee.

UPDATES

The Chair provided updates to the Committee, and the following was noted:

- The Significant Tree Tour, will be planned for Late August or early September 2017.
 - The tour could comprise of select trees that are good examples of the criteria, “Greatest Hits Tour”.
- Rainbow Road property was removed from the EDPA
- The City of Victoria did not implement a voluntary 10 cent per plastic bag fee, the City is seeking a mandatory 10 cent per plastic bag fee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 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