

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
November 22, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

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

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks, Yann Gagnon, Acting Manager, Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas Manager; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Guests: Keely Nixon, Farmland Access Coordinator, Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable; Larry Leyne

Minutes

MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by R. Hesselgrave: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held October 25, 2016, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

FARM LANDS TRUST

The Chair introduced Keely Nixon, Farmland Access Coordinator. K. Nixon gave the Committee an update on the Farmland Trust status. The following highlights are noted:

- A trust approach sees managing farmland as a public good and placing land in trust to be made available through long term leases to farmers, for training and start up business incubation, and for community growth and learning opportunities.
- The Saanich Farmland Trust Staff Report is nearing completion, and will go to Council in 2017.
- A trust is just one proven method to address land access and tenure.
- Many other ways to address land access and tenure are being used North America wide.
- There is the continued need for Saanich to work collaboratively with all the stakeholders in the CRD.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- An inter-municipal task force on Farmlands Trust would be a valuable way to move forward.
- The most productive outcome on the FLT would likely result from a collaborative regional effort.
- Land-matching software platform to assist matching land to farmers.
- Living near farmland. Revisiting secondary suites in rural areas to allow farmers to live on or close to the land they are farming.
- With the change in the political climate in the US, Canada may be faced with food shortages.

TREE PROTECTION BYLAW

The Chair introduced the Acting Manager of Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas. The Acting Manager of Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas together with the Senior Manager, Parks gave the Committee an overview of the Tree Protection Bylaw and the Urban Forestry Strategy. The following was noted:

- The new Tree Protection Bylaw places more accountability on the landowner for removal and replacement of a tree.
- “Tree Banks” surety clause to plant replacement trees on public lands if space to plant on property being developed not suitable for tree replacement.
- Developers routinely plant more than the required number of replacement trees.
- A detailed guide to assist the public in determining which tree goes where is being developed.
- Communication is central to looking at Saanich projects through a tree protection lens.
- Raising public awareness on the positive aspects of preserving and increasing our tree stock will help to further the Urban Forest Strategy.
- Enforcement of the Tree Protection Bylaw is largely complaint driven enforcement.
- Building a database of Saanich trees over the next 3-5 years will give Council current hard data to review. Current retrospective analysis of the data available does not adequately capture the tree loss in Saanich.
- Some canopy loss may occur from the removal of non-protected trees.
- Removal of ornamental trees may result in conflicting data.
- Programs are in development to encourage the public to plant trees.

The Committee thanked the speakers for their presentation.

SIGNIFICANT TREE GRANT APPLICATION- SIGNIFICANT TREE #144- 3830 Nancy Hanks Street (Garry Oak)

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP12324:

- Bartlett Tree Experts (\$1,144.50.00)
- Davey Tree Experts (\$920.00)
- Capital Tree Service (\$1396.50.00)

Motion: **MOVED by J. Coates and Seconded by K. Brown: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$920.00 provided by Davey Tree Experts be paid to the applicant.”**

CARRIED

SIGNIFICANT TREE GRANT APPLICATION- SIGNIFICANT TREE #20- 314 Harriet Road (Garry Oak)

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP12324:

- Davey Tree (\$708.75)
- Blue Collar (\$708.75)
- RC Tree (\$787.50)

Motion: **MOVED by J. Coates and Seconded by K. Brown: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$708.00 provided by Davey Tree Experts be paid to the applicant.”**

CARRIED

SIGNIFICANT TREE GRANT APPLICATION- SIGNIFICANT TREE #138- 4456 Tyndall Avenue (Incense Cedar)

The following quotes were considered for tree support system further to Permit No. TRP12984:

- BC Plant Health Care Inc. (\$798.00)
- Larix Landscape Ltd. (\$785.78)
- Bartlett Tree Experts (\$819.00)

Motion: MOVED by J. Coates and Seconded by K. Brown: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$785.78 provided by Larix Landscaping Ltd. be paid to the applicant.”

CARRIED

SIGNIFICANT TREE GRANT APPLICATION- SIGNIFICANT TREE #25- 4875 Maxine Lane (American elm)

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP12805:

- Bartlett Tree Experts (\$2,546.25.00)
- Dogwood Tree Service (\$2,100.00)
- Islandview Tree Service (\$2,200.00)

Motion: MOVED by J. Coates and Seconded by K. Brown: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$2,100.00 provided by Dogwood Tree Service be paid to the applicant.”

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS GUIDELINES

The Manager of Environmental Services presented the updates to the Environmental Awards Guidelines to the Committee.

STORMWATER

The Chair asked the CAO if stormwater management could be included with the Strategic Plan discussions.

In support of the Blue Dot movement an environmental gap analysis will be a topic during the strategic planning discussions.

The Conservation Tax Incentive discussion will be continued at a future ENA meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2017.

Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary