

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
May 17, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; Nathalie Dechaine, Manager of Community Development and Business Systems; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Guest: Andrew Gage, West Coast Environmental Law Group

MINUTES

MOVED by M. Haig- Brown and Seconded by A. Charania: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held April 19, 2017 be adopted."

CARRIED

WEST COAST LAW GROUP INITIATIVE

Mr. Andrew Gage with West Coast Environmental law gave the Committee a presentation of an initiative that they have been formulating. The following highlights are noted:

- Climate change has substantial costs to municipalities for upgrading infrastructure to address rising sea levels and other associated climate changes.
- The West Coast Environmental Law group is proposing a letter be sent to big oil companies requesting compensation for climate costs that the tax payer will have to address.
- A new conversation should be started, addressing the economic impacts of climate change and the roles/ responsibilities of local governments and the fossil fuel industry.
- Society routinely hears of the benefits of the fossil fuel economy which does not take into account the costs of the fossil fuel economy. Looking at the two parts of the fossil fuel economy together gives a more accurate picture of the true costs.
- Large global companies should not be permitted to continue to profit in the billions with no financial responsibility to local communities that are facing large expenditures to address the impacts of the fossil fuel industry.
- Conversations have started in BC and in countries around the world.
- Accountability cannot be 100% on the individual user, the companies that profit from climate change inducing products must take responsibility for their share of the expenses, cradle to grave lifecycle of the products they produce.
- A draft letter illustrating a request to fossil fuel companies to assist with climate change infrastructure upgrades will be electronically circulated to the Committee members for discussion at a future meeting.

Committee discussion occurred and the following highlights are noted:

- It is a sound idea to have companies who profit for the sale of fossil fuels to have a share in the responsibility to pay for the damage that their products cause.
- Traditionally CO2 emissions seem to have been shielded from the “pollute and pay” responsibility.
- End user taxes hide company responsibility and disproportionately burdens the individual.
- Some companies that have been faced with large expenses related to the damage caused by their products/actions go bankrupt and resulting in little or no compensation to address the damage.
- The fossil fuel enabling environment must be addressed-capitalist model, economic impacts and jobs.
- A letter should be sent after Saanich quantifies the anticipated infrastructure costs due to the impacts of climate change.
- Municipalities could quantify their anticipated future infrastructure costs and use these numbers to request financial assistance from the fossil fuel companies.

SIGNIFICANT TREES

The Manager of Community Development and Business Systems led a discussion on the Significant Tree program administrative processes, and the following highlights are noted:

- The proposed change to the delegation of authority for the Significant Tree grants would improve customer service and expedite the tree healthcare work on the Significant Tree.
- The time to release the grant funds to the owners of Significant Trees would be significantly reduced.
- Saanich Parks would report back to the ENA Committee on any work conducted on Significant Trees as an update agenda item.
- A yearly summary of all Significant Tree work could be provided to the Committee.
- The ENA would still be involved with nominations, adjudications and potential designations of any new Significant Tree in Saanich.
- The ENA would continue to foster awareness, recognition and support for Significant Trees.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Concern was raised that by reassigning this administrative role the ENA Committee would not be kept current on the status of Significant Trees.
- Any removal requests for a Significant Tree should still be brought to the ENA Committee for discussion prior to the approval to remove the tree is given.
- The ENA Committee will continue its role to promote Saanich Significant Trees.
- The Committee felt the Significant Tree update as an agenda item and the yearly work update would be welcome.

Motion: **MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by M. Haig-Brown: “That The Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee recommends that Council change the delegation of authority for Significant Tree grants from the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee to the Director of Parks and Recreation, and update the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee’s terms of reference to reflect this change.”**

CARRIED
With A Charania and K. Brown OPPOSED

SIGNIFICANT TREE GRANT APPLICATION- SIGNIFICANT TREE #20- 759 Sanctuary Court, Rainbow Ridge Strata VIS5500 (Monterey Cypress)

The following quotes were considered for pruning further to Permit No. TRP13315:

- Bartlett Tree Experts (\$420.00)
- Capital Tree Service (\$399.00)
- Davey Tree Services (\$336.00)

Motion: MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by M. Haig-Brown: “That a grant of 50% of the estimate of \$336.00 provided by Davey Tree Services be paid to the applicant.”

CARRIED

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

The Chair facilitated a discussion on potential agenda items, and the following highlights are noted:

- Non-farm uses of agriculture land: Greenhouses on prime farm land. An article by Linda Geggie in the Saanich News illustrates this concern in Saanich.
- Climate Change: An expert should be invited to provide current information. The Manager of Sustainability will be coming to a future Committee meeting to discuss Saanich efforts with respect to greenhouse gas emissions.
- ENA Awards: Will be held on June 12, 2017 and an update will be presented to the Committee at the June 2017 meeting.
- Housing Affordability: Other committees are actively involved with this issue.
- Stormwater management: Infrastructure deficits, one pipe versus two pipe systems, rain gardens and day lighting streams are a few of the issues that could be considered under the stormwater management umbrella.
- Urban Forestry Strategy: Progress report.
- Stewardship of natural capital: Discussion of how natural world allows for significant infrastructure costs, Val Schaffer could be invited to speak to this item.
- Saanich carbon sinks: Areas in Saanich that hold or up take carbon-urban forest helps reduce carbon footprint.
- CRD Climate Action Strategy: Manager of Sustainability will provide an update to the Committee.
- Environmental Bill of Rights: Reporting out to see this has made it to the Strategic Plan? A Staff report will be coming in the future on the Environmental Bill of Rights.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2017.

Councillor Wergeland, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary