

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting

May 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Jay Shukin (Councillor Liaison), Ron Aubrey (Chair), Kathy Atherton, Ryan Carter, Caroline Donahue, Jim Nan, David Shanks (Recorder)

Regrets: Karen Hoffman, Gord Stodola

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Added Ash Mountain under 9b).

Moved by Jim that the Committee approve the agenda as amended.

Carried

2. Presentations

None.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, April 24, 2024

Moved by Caroline that the Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 24, 2024.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

a) Community Planning Committee, May 13, 2024

b) Environmental Advisory Select Committee, April 23, 2024

- PTASC member commented on the Lombard poplars on Lombard Rd
- Discussion of stricter resolution from District on herbicides, but not anticipated to affect MISC use of herbicides

Moved by Ron that the Committee receive the above Advisory Select Committees Minutes for information.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

David assigned as PTASC-ATP development liaison, provided update from consultant at Urban Systems (Beth).

- Tasks completed: Background review and District visit
- Upcoming tasks: facilities inventory, public engagement
 - Any PTASC or Metchosin volunteers to join booth at public events
- Beth requested GIS data of Metchosin trails/facilities?
 - Noted today's printed maps use GIS, so staff should have copies of this. Also noted that GAIA website/app has existing trails within it.
- More information will be coming on the ATP process.

b) Memorial Bench

Application not received, expected for next month's PTASC meeting.

c) Beckingham Road Subdivision Trail

- Discussion of "dogleg" that goes into wet/riparian area (NE corner). Concern on difficulty to build and maintain?
 - Developer to build the whole trail.
 - Concerns the plan will change (e.g., identify further riparian area).
 - Discussion on ensuring trail in wetland/riparian area is properly constructed (bridge/boardwalk discussed).
- Discussion of multi-use versus. Nature trail, particularly steep part at beginning
 - Seems less likely for cyclists or equestrian use, would have increased maintenance costs.
 - Consensus achieved on recommending a modified multi-use trails (gravel but the width of a natural trail).
- Committee unclear if subdivision is approved, would PTASC recommendations change anything?
- Recommended that **developer involve and consult the Parks & Trails Coordinator about the trail design to ensure trail & crossing of wet/riparian area is acceptable to Metchosin.**
- Beckingham emergency access road could allow for future trail connection with Blinkhorn Mtn (e.g., via Parry Bay Sheep/Lindholm Farm). Discussion about adding to the P&T Master plan update.
 - **Firstly, seek clarification on whom will own fire/emergency road? Would it allow for trail if Metchosin owns it?**
 - **Secondly, request developer to allow public or resident access to the fire/emergency road and dedicate it to allow for future trail development.**
- Proposed benefit: access or trail connect would prevent overgrowth of vegetation

Action: PTASC to provide recommendations to CAO by 12-June. **PTASC to share and agree on wording to CAO by email.** Can be sent to CAO when agreed and then adopted at June PTASC meeting.

7. Reports

a) Parks and Trails Coordinator

- Metchosin Wilderness Park repaired, kudos to Gord, Jim, and Metchosin Public Works
- Increased interest in having PTASC recommended possible Memorial Bench sites
- Duke Road bench is moving forward
- Duke Road Survey terms provided to CAO

Action: Requested for Jay to ask CAO to provide that Parks & Trails Coordinator gets final review of Tender Documents

- Westmont providing Volunteers for trail cleanup. Need guidance from “qualified” individual on cleanup/invasives removal. This can be anyone from PTASC
- Public works received new information from seminar on mitigation of European Ash in Blinkhorn Nature Park. **Public works looking to hire herbicide applicator, or get one trained on Public Works staff, to connect Public Works with MISC.**

b) Council Liaison

- Update on Buffer land.
 - Community Planning Committee had discussions on managing land & access.
 - Council decided not going forward with CRD discussions. Will look further into BLWG recommendations.
- P&T Master Plan, to be plugged into ATP development. P&T Master Plan updates to start in the fall.
- Livestock predation has been an issue. Ag & Env Committees combined meeting on 9-July.
- Weirs Beach stairs, still waiting for the contractor to start.

c) Chair

Action: Requested P&T Coordinator to move forward initiating meetings with Colwood & Langford counterparts to PTASC.

- Duke Rd Survey, seeking RFP out quickly and received tenders by end of June.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Other Business

a) Parks & Trails Master Plan

- Asked Jim for next meeting to go through existing P&T plan priorities and then have Committee discussion on moving forward
 - This discussion can be feed forward into ATP development
- P&T Master plan identified to Metchosin Staff to be standing agenda item on each PTASC agenda.

b) Ash Mountain Trail

Trail ROW is significantly overgrown by broom, seeking work party to clear ROW and volunteers from PTASC and community.

- Potential dates?
- P&T coordinator noted we/Metchosin may be able to assist with removing waste.

Action: Jay suggests best course of action that Ryan contact CAO to notify owner of plan to remove invasives.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved by Kathy that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.