

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Buffer Land Working Group**

**May 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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**Present:** Councillor Jay Shukin (Chair), Councillor Shelly Donaldson (Vice-Chair), Brian Grant, Richard Simpson Bailey Spiteri

**Regrets:** Bonnie Bouveur, Anna Hall, Karen Hoffman, Gary Smirfitt.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

**1. Agenda, Additions, Approval**

Jay called the meeting to order. He welcomed Brian Grant, who was attending his first meeting. Brian introduced himself, noting his experience as a geologist and in working with stakeholder groups.

**2. Public Participation**

Sherry Davies asked for confirmation on the location of the main entrance. Discussed concerns about the residential development in Langford and future impacts.

Tamara Ballard for background on the composition of the Working Group. Questions were also raised about the difference between a working group and the advisory select committees Councillor Donaldson noted the representation from the Neild Road area, the District's Advisory Groups and the broader community. She noted that working groups are generally focused on a specific task, where advisory groups have a broader mandate. Both groups report back to Council.

Mike Ballard noted the importance of the stormwater system being effective in terms of managing pollutants. He mentioned recent findings about tire residue impacting the health of salmon populations.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of April 20, 2023 Working Group meeting were presented for adoption. Carried

**4. Reports**

Discussion occurred of the May 9, 2023 community input meeting. Key themes from the community input session:

- Importance of environmental protection.
- Consideration of a new zone, which could support conservation goals.
- Little support for CRD involvement.
- Concern over stormwater detention ponds being put into the Buffer.

Jay noted that formal minutes of the session will be coming for the Group's review.

**5. New Business**

Discussed better defining “greenspace buffer.” Brian provided a definition:

The buffer lands will remain a greenspace that conserves the area’s ecosystem, protects the water quality in the Bilston Creek watershed, and allows an enjoyable outdoor experience for a limited number of users. The lands will be managed effectively with a strategic and operational plans that maintain and inspire environmental stewardship even with the future increases in nearby population density.

There was discussion on this. Bailey indicated that she would also work on a definition.

The concept tracking table was reviewed. Bailey suggested that the evaluation criteria be built directly into the rows where each concept would be considered and develop a ranking system. Jay will revise the table and circulate for comment ahead of our next meeting. The evaluation criteria in the working group’s terms of reference include: Neighbour impacts; Financial impacts; Practicality / Feasibility; Legal and land use considerations, other criteria as determined by the Working Group.

Based on the revised table being acceptable, there was discussion about starting the work of identifying and evaluating concepts at our next meeting.

The group discussed evaluating options that we don’t necessarily favour. There was general agreement that the Working Group’s effort would be incomplete or biased toward a certain outcome if we did not consider a broad range of options.

Tuesday, June 6th was put forward. Jay to confirm this date and the time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.