

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Councillor Steve Gray, Bill Cave, Garry Fletcher (Chair), Merrilee Hoen (recorder), Ric Perron, Erin Van de Water

Regrets: Andy MacKinnon, Anna Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Additions to Other Business:

Discussion about facilitating student environmental projects, consider a BC government statement that refers to Race Rocks as part of Metchosin.

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Erin that the Committee approve the agenda as amended.

Carried

2. Presentations

None.

3. Public Participation

Nicole Shukin expressed support for the draft outline of a Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan. In keeping with the draft document, she recommended that the proposed zoning category “Conservation Zone P4” under consideration for the Buffer Lands might be an appropriate designation for other lands in Metchosin.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Environmental Advisory Select Committee, January 28, 2025

Moved and Seconded by Ric and Bill that the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on January 28, 2025.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

- a) Committee of the Whole, January 13, 2025
- b) Committee of the Whole, February 10, 2025
- c) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, December 17, 2024
- d) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, January 21, 2025

Moved and Seconded by Merrilee and Erin that the Committee receive the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meetings held January 13, 2025 and February 10, 2025 and the minutes of the Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee meetings held December 17, 2024 and January 21, 2025.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Spongy Moth Spraying Program

Erin has been gathering information about the aerial spraying program. Municipalities will be asked for their permission before spraying is done. Erin proposes that we recommend to Council that they do not give permission if approached in future.

Action: Erin will circulate the information she has gathered for consideration at our next meeting.

Action: Committee members to review information gathered in preparation for making a recommendation at the next meeting.

b) Working on a Local Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan

Steve included a draft outline of the Local Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan in the agenda package for this meeting. Several other municipalities have created similar documents, and we can learn a lot from them. Garry recommends looking at Gibson's plan as one model. With increasing pressure for development, we need to identify sensitive, biologically rich areas in line with our Official Community Plan (OCP). With increasing climate change pressure, we need to also identify existing natural assets performing functions that, if lost, would have to be replaced at great expense to the municipality. An example of this is flood control provided by wetlands.

Topics of discussion at future meetings will be how to engage the public for input as we refine the plan. Some preliminary ideas included conducting opinion polls, facilitated round table discussions, workshops and Metchosin Community Day displays.

Action: Committee members to provide feedback to Steve on the draft document.

Action: Garry to check with Andy about the progress he is making with the project to prepare data for the Conservation Data Centre using maps and other data that has been collected in Metchosin in the past.

Action: Steve will share the draft Local Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan with our Planner and the Agriculture Advisory Select Committee for feedback. Steve will also touch base with Sc'ianew First Nation and contact the community groups mentioned in the document to refine the descriptions of activities and garner additional feedback.

7. Reports

a) Chair's Verbal Report

None.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

Steve and Councillor Sharie Epp attended an on-paper Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) oil spill simulation of a large spill on Constance Bank. WCMRC representatives have agreed to make a presentation to Council in the near future to provide an update on preparations.

Steve and Sharie learned that the province and WCMRC will be responsible for shoreline response. Up to now we had thought that Metchosin would be responsible for this. Metchosin will be responsible still for evacuation of residents, as needed.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Other Business

a) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair: Garry Fletcher
Vice-Chair: Merrilee Hoen

b) Bylaw and Policy Material for Annual Review

The committee reviewed the following documents for information.

- i. District of Metchosin Respectful Workplace Policy # A-100.40
- ii. District of Metchosin Advisory Select Committee Bylaw No. 49
- iii. Environmental Advisory Select Committee (MEASC) Terms of Reference, Policy C-100.72
- iv. District of Metchosin Council Procedure Bylaw No. 507

b) Race Rocks Ecological Reserve

While looking at some BC government documents outlining some changes to how parks are designated, Garry noticed that the Race Rocks Ecological Reserve is listed as being in Metchosin. Formerly, it was always listed as being in the Juan De Fuca District.

Action: Garry will investigate if this is an error or if a change has occurred.

c) Project criteria and student support

If the various environmental groups in Metchosin could tailor their project descriptions to meet the criteria for projects students must complete to fulfill their program requirements, it is possible that these groups could obtain much more help.

Action: Merrilee will investigate the criteria needed for projects for the Environmental Restoration and Geography programs at UVic and Erin will investigate similar criteria at Camosun.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Ric and Merrilee that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.