

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting

March 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: David Shanks (Chair), Jay Shukin (Council Liaison), Kathy Atherton, Caroline Donohue (recorder), Karen Hoffman, Jim Nan.

Regrets: Ron Aubrey

1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

Approved, no additions

2. Presentations

None

3. Public Participation

Jeanette McMillian

- Commented that she is disappointed in the active transportation plan survey, particularly the fact that other peoples' comments could be deleted and multiple responses submitted for the same individual using different IP addresses.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, February 18, 2025

Carried.

5. Receipt of Minutes

a) Environmental Advisory Select Committee, February 25, 2025

- Jay: noted that Steve Gray is working on a biodiversity plan

b) Committee of the Whole, February 10, 2025

- Jay: A number of resolutions were brought forward regarding invasives, which raised questions regarding concerns over herbicide use. Jay volunteered to develop a policy on invasives on District land and roadways, which will include the use of herbicides. Will aim to bring this to the Committee of the Whole meeting in June.

Moved by David to extend an invitation to Neil West from MISC to present on invasive management and to add an item to future PTASC meeting.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Beckingham Subdivision

- Kathy: Walkabout has not happened yet

b) Blinkhorn Nature Park

- Naming has been corrected on the website by staff – issue resolved

7. Reports

a) Parks & Trails Coordinator Verbal Report

- Bob is still considered the question of insurance re: Trail Stewards
- Jim cleared the two fallen trees in Metchosin Wilderness park and cleaned up graffiti
- Eleanor Mann and Montreul Heights identified as needing Broom pull.
- Kathy is working on a comprehensive list of all our parks, trails, and orphan land to be shared shortly.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

- Caroline Donohue has been appointed as Trails Coordinator. Announced at Council on March 17.
- No other committee appointments at this time – anyone interested in joining is welcome to express interest at any time.
- 2024 4th quarter financial report was issued yesterday. Discussion around surplus and where the additional funds came from. Jay noted the following:
 - Trails maintenance: \$4,308 spent / \$5,000 budgeted.
 - Trails development: \$1,423 spent / \$10,000 budgeted
- Budget discussions ongoing – aim is to finalize by mid-April

c) Chair Verbal Report

- None

8. Correspondence

- None

9. Other Business

a) Duke Road East Trail Update

- Meeting held with the DRE sub-committee and Engineer and CAO on Feb 18th
 - Survey reviewed and ideas discussed. Engineer identified similar challenges we were aware of and mentioned some potential solutions.
 - Engineer to provide a Phase 1 trail detailed design to the CAO
- Site visit on Feb 21st with Bob, Bruce (Westbrook Engineering) Ron, David and Harold Perepalkin.
 - Discussion centered on road narrowing to slow/calm traffic, bus stops, delineators, and potential crosswalk
 - Engineer indicated Phase 3 could be a lot easier/cheaper than initially anticipated by utilizing extra width of the existing paved surface. This would align and expand on the previously approved line painting approved by Council via Councilor Epp.

Moved by David that Jay be added to the Duke Road East sub-committee to replace departing member Ryan.

Carried.

b) Parks & Trails Master Plan Updates

- Finalizing ideas for the open house
- Will have information boards as well as large map for discussion

c) Discussion of Draft ATNP

- Concern regarding differing definitions of trail types – PTASC to provide Urban Systems with input on definitions
- PTASC continues to see DRE as a valid active transportation and public safety project. Also saw merit in projects within the village core (Metchosin Rd & Happy Valley, in particular, as well as Rocky Point trail (Arden to Hans Helgesen), and Metchosin Road trail (Colwood to DRE). Discussion occurred on the potential of developing a trail to the Galloping Goose from Hans Helgesen.
- Discussion on survey results – some concern over the survey methods and as a result how representative they are of community views.
- Jay will forward PTASC's detailed comments on to Council

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

- Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm and next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2025.