

District of Metchosin
Minutes
Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber
Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Ron Aubrey (meeting chair), Jay Shukin (Council Liaison) Kathy Atherton, Caroline Donahue, Karen Hoffman, Jim Nan, David Shanks (recorder)

Regrets: None

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

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

- David noted item to be added for Blaney Trail Bat Box

Moved by David

THAT the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

2. Presentations

Neil West, Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative (MISC), Invasives in Parks:

- Main intention is to allow MISC to continue work in Metchosin Parks, specifically regarding continued use of Garlon (herbicide);
- Amount applied is small, per acre quantity is much below several published studies. Due to focused cut-stump application (applicator like a bingo dobber) instead of spraying;
- Overview of the impact of Holly on native plants (“dead zone”) & understory;
- Noted other invasives of concern (e.g. ivy covering large trees within Witty’s Lagoon – CRD park, possible to eradicate European Ash – Blinkhorn Nature Park);
- Ron asked about possibility of producing/adding 1 page document to Parks & Trails documents/brochures; for the purpose of Public Education (MEASC, PTASC, & MISC collaboration); particularly District Trails users; and
- Neil asked for PTASC support of MISC work towards District Council & CAO.

3. Public Participation

- None

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, April 15, 2025

Moved by Kathy

THAT the Committee approve the minutes of the Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee meeting held on April 15, 2025.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

a) Environmental Advisory Select Committee, April 22, 2025

- Discussing removal of Schedule A (Significant Trees). Council will consider this as part of an overall review of Tree Management bylaw.

Moved by David

THAT the Committee receive the above Committee Minutes.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Beckingham Subdivision

- Some work has started at the top of the trail.
- Comments on entrance to trail, Trail is steep with minimal switchbacks. Noted concern about trees removed causing issue due to lack of cover from rainfall.
 - **Action:** Kathy to provide Ron will memo to CAO regarding identified concerns & recommendation that condition be applied for Developer to conduct repairs for set time (e.g. 2 years) in case that trail condition deteriorates due.
 - Committee seeks to understand Trail completion timeline and that it will be to Metchosin standard and PTASC expectation.
 - Suggested for PTASC representatives visit trail site with CAO prior to completion/approval to discuss and understand concerns (e.g. “final inspection”).

b) Duke Road East Trail Update

- Follow-up meeting held with CAO, District Engineer
 - Noted intent that Duke Rd centerline should be modified consistently.
 - Comment that centerline adjustment should be considered for Duke Rd W at the same time.
 - Requested revised costing for Ph 1 trail, and some markers of boulevard area to allow discussion with adjacent neighbours
 - Intent is to have cost to seek Council approval for Phase 1.
 - No need to change drain covers, different solution with blacktop to manage water/washout.
 - Public works have a design for roadside drains
 - Caroline asked about past discussed safety improvement recommendations. These would be Public Works initiatives to investigate.

c) Parks & Trails Master Plan Updates

- i. Open House Update: Summary of Comments
 - Ron has meeting scheduled 28-May with WSPR & BGC Victoria, to discuss additional trails & Community Gardens within BCG property.
 - Noted possibility for Community Gardens in other Metchosin Park properties
- ii. Draft Parks/Trails Info Sheet Format
 - Content from Kathy & Jim prepared into example Park summary document
 - Technical subcommittee has template “form” to gather technical details for each Park & Trail asset
 - Comments on need to capture details regarding accessibility.

- Noted PTASC should consider benches based on community feedback about needing rest points on trails. (Consider based on trail length)
 - Consider simpler bench design in more “remote” locations.
 - **Action:** add topic for mid-trail & remote benches to next meeting agenda
- iii. Next Steps
 - Draft of the main document has begun. Draft Table of Contents in works with subcommittee.
 - Mapping: Karen noted Section 95 needs to be mapped
 - Discussion of Topics to be covered: Buffer Land, Orphaned Parks, Nature Conservation areas
- d) Weir Beach Stairs
 - Fix to be completed with more robust landing platform
 - Can remove topic from next meeting agenda
- e) Management of Invasive Species in Metchosin Parks
 - Discussion of management of invasives in parks being separate from recommendations on type or application of herbicides in District Parks
 - Noted that draft Invasives Policy is intended to cover use of herbicides

Moved by David & seconded by Caroline

THAT the PTASC acknowledges the importance of managing and removing invasives from District Parks and supports the work done by MISC on invasives.

Carried

- f) Clarify the scope of Metchosin Bylaws review relative to PTASC
 - Council liaison clarified that this is an initiative underway by MEASC; doesn’t directly relate to PTASC.
- g) Blaney Trail Bat Box
 - Agreement from CAO that install can be completed
 - There is need for clear communication; Public Works needs to be provided full details on work required & where.
 - **Action:** David to provide request & details to CAO and Public Works.

7. Reports

- a) Parks and Trails Coordinator
 - Broom pull by Scouts on road frontage of Buckbrush Swamp Park. Firesmart is organized to remove debris
 - Westmont Montessori hold annual cycle from school to Matheson Lake, reached out about cleanup which was agreed as per past years events. Cleanup expected in early June.
 - Pearson College contact asked about volunteering opportunities over the summer with PTASC.
 - Another option is to suggest they reach out to FireSmart for other opportunities
 - Hillman bench; 2 benches are to be ordered & Hillman trail bench will then be installed.

- b) Council Liaison
 - Discussed engaging William Head institution with CAO
 - ATNP project to move forward for Grant; Village core was selected project
 - Another Broom pull being planned for Buffer Land in early June

- c) Chair Verbal Report
 - As discussed above under 6 a) i.

8. Correspondence

- None

9. Other Business

- a) Draft Invasive Species Policy
 - Request to provide comments on Policy by email
 - Mechanical/manual means for invasive removal a preferred & primary method
 - Formalize that herbicides can be used in specific & defined situations
 - **Action:** to correct term “pesticide” to “herbicide”
 - To add to agenda future meeting: Kathy asked is it possible to have Kiosk at park entrances with QR code relating to Invasives.
 - Could this be accommodated within the final Policy as it relates to “volunteers”.
Similar topic as to the “volunteer” efforts of future trails coordinators
- b) Metchosin Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan
 - Lead by Councillor Gray and MEASC to bring biodiversity & natural assets into OCP & District Bylaws
 - Idea of creating a Biodiversity Area Development Permit process

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved by Karen

THAT the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.