

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

**Regrets:** Caroline Donahue

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

**1. Agenda, Additions and Approval**

**Moved** by Karen

THAT the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

**Carried**

**2. Presentations**

None

**3. Public Participation**

Erin Ronsse - resident

- Voiced support of PTASC, offered help where they can.

Patti Williams - resident

- Question if each lot in subdivision would require its own septic system; This is not noted in the drawings
  - Chair clarified that PTASC remit is only Parks or Trails perspectives.

Darren Brown -resident

- Offered thoughts & feedback from last meeting regarding the proposed Duke Road East project. Referencing the sub-committees. Suggested continuing public engagement as the process continues, as this will bring out more ideas and input from the community.
- Advocated for evidenced-based decision making, noting ICBC statistics for local road safety.
- Noted the value of a roadside trail on Metchosin Road.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, May 20, 2025

**Moved** by Jim

THAT the Committee approve the minutes of the Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee meeting held on May 20, 2025.

**Carried**

5. **Receipt of Minutes**

a) Environmental Advisory Select Committee, May 27, 2025

**Moved** by David

THAT the Committee receive the May 27, 2025, Advisory Select Committee Minutes for information.

**Carried**

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

a) Beckingham Subdivision

- Ron noted brief feedback from Kathy provided to him & CAO:
  - **Action:** To add Statement/Policy into the P&T master plan on PTASC or TC to have say in final approval of trails completed by developers.
  - Kathy noted if trail is “completed” it is not to standard.
    - Not clear if the completed trail goes to the expected end at corner of ROW at Winfall ROW.
  - **Action:** Kathy to provide another message to CAO about concerns.
- Kathy walked today, the steep entrance looks similar to last time, but gravel already shows signs of wear & tear.
- Existing homeowner noted concerns that trail runs fairly close the house.
- Some metal wire/debris is across the trail, obscures the known trail location, & cleanup may help keep people on designated trail.

b) Duke Road East Trail Update

- Jay identified to CAO that 2 items remain outstanding from Engineer:
  - Cost estimate for Ph 1;
  - Plan on moving the centreline on DRE.
- Ron asked about timing of Council meetings over summer, relating to ability put recommendation forward Duke Rd East Trail for decision. Council meeting planned in July but not currently in August.
- David raised concern about limitation/ability for volunteers to contribute to roadside trail construction. Jay will be meeting with District staff on topic.
  - Jim noted Pears Rd trail was put in almost 100% volunteer basis, hopes this can be continued going forward.
  - Ron expressed that clarity needed from District on the rules to apply for Trail construction & general PTASC projects.

c) Parks & Trails Master Plan Updates

i. Draft Table of Contents

- This draft prepared by Subcommittee discussions with Jay, Caroline, & David. Expected to adapt & change as development continues.
- Sections divided to draft between 3 of subcommittee members.
  - Goal to have draft content to share with Committee following July & Draft document for Public Open House by November.
- Jay noted **action** for all Committee Members to note & share any recommendations for consideration to include in the updated P&T Master Plan.

ii. Mountain Bikes on Trails

- Discussion that accommodation for bicycles seems to be trail specific:
  - Should consider where mountain bikes have potential to cause damage. Criteria needed:
    - Roadside versus Nature trails;
    - Graveled versus dirt trail;
    - Regular mountain bikes versus eBikes, the latter have potential to do more damage.
    - Seasonal considerations for wet damage versus dry conditions
  - Suggested list of allowed trails.
- Discussion of perceived difference in behaviours of Horse users versus Mountain Bike users.

iii. Mid-trail and Remote Benches

- Requested to ask members to share potential locations when they are identified
- Discussion of different bench standard for “remote” bench:
  - Plastic wood, or ½ log with smaller log supports. Agreement that ½ log bench would be keeping with Metchosin rural character.

iv. Kiosk Sign/QR Code on Invasives at Park Entrances

- Kathy noted Murrays pond had QR codes that provides info; suggested this could be done at parks to provide information about invasives, details on identifying, removing, and/or reporting. Could also provide information about Native Plants as well.
  - Opportunity to leverage technology/apps to engage visitors.
  - Inspired by sign in Powell River that encouraged people to remove invasive Ivy.
  - **Action:** Suggested to identify example/Pilot project to try this out.

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v. Next Steps

- As discussed in item 6 c) i.

7. **Reports**

a) Parks and Trails Coordinator

- None

b) Council Liaison

- Firehall is current pressing issue within District office. Decision made on option to pursue, seeking to further plan. Aim to seek community grant to help funding.
- Meeting planned with CAO & District staff on Thursday about work by volunteers.

c) Chair Verbal Report

- Thanked people for attending & contributing to meetings on Firehall.
  - David asked if PTASC has role towards “FireSmart” activities in Metchosin Parks. Jim noted it is shared.
    - Jim noted Fire Dept and Osprey volunteered time to work on Blinkhorn park cleanup.
- Informal meeting planned on June 26 between PTASC & Colwood Parks/Trails representatives for introductions and to share information and plans along shared municipal boundaries.

- Jay noted to consider engaging Colwood, CRD, or others to collaborate on trail along Metchosin Rd.
- Noted eagerness and still waiting on information regarding Duke Rd East Trail.

**8. Correspondence**

a) Diana Smith – Vehicle Parking on Roadside Trails

- Inquiry if temporary measures (e.g. putting up pylons for Metchosin Community Day & Metchosin Garage Sale) could be replaced by permanent measures
  - Seeking information about cost for delineators for this and other potential locations in the district.

**Moved** by Ron and seconded by David

That the Committee recommended Council direct staff to explore options to manage roadside parking infringing on trails, & other busy roadside areas, to address safety issues, perhaps considered within ATPN project in the Village core. Options could include delineators, “no parking” signs.

**Carried**

**9. Other Business**

a) Proposed 10-lot Subdivision, 3816 Duke Road

- Clarification by Jay on Local Government Act, also noted in Section 941 per the OCP/2009 Trails Masterplan
- Discussion of land donation versus cash in lieu
- Limited access to connect up to Chapel Heights or Graceland
- Discussion of potential park with bench/viewpoint in western wooded area of current lot, seeking to include large Arbutus trees with aim to support protection on public land.

**Moved** by Kathy

THAT the PTASC recommend the Approving Officer seek payment equal to the value of the land contribution from subdivision of 3816 Duke Road.

**Carried**

**10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

**Moved** by Jim

THAT the Committee adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

**Carried**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.