

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: David Shanks (Chair), Jay Shukin (Council Liaison, Recorder), Emma Horgan, Ron Aubrey, Chris Thibodeau, Caroline Donohue, Ian Baxter

Regrets: Kathy Atherton,

The Meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

- Introduction of new members.
- Agenda approved by consensus.
- Brief discussion about documents that the new members should have.

2. Presentations

- No presentations.

3. Public Participation

- No public participation.

4. Adoption of Minutes

- Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, February 17, 2026. Approved, with the correct spelling of “Cliff”.

5. Receipt of Minutes

- No other minutes to receive.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Parks & Trails Master Plan Update

- Most recent draft of the Plan circulated to new members and comments requested by April 2, 2026.
- Goal is to provide Council with a new draft by mid-April.

7. Reports

a) Parks & Trails Coordinator Verbal Report

- Trail signage update:

- Affordable quote (~\$30/sign); and
- Can overlay old signs, where the paint is faded.

Committee Discussion:

- Material availability, aluminum and a composite material;
 - Priority replacement and graphic standard;
 - Committee and staff roles and responsibilities regarding sign replacement to be discussed with CAO.
- No reports of park/trail damage after mid-March windstorm.

Committee Discussion:

- New drainage work done by Colwood on Latoria Creek:
 - Concerns about future flow impact on downstream neighbours and Latoria Creek Community Bridge as development continues;
 - CAO has been informed of the work and has connected with Colwood; and
 - PTASC to continue monitoring.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

- Update on the newly hired Fire Chief (Dan Verdun) and District budget process.

Committee Discussion:

- Buffer Land:
 - Ian Baxter provided an update from the March 21 Broom Removal event organized by Friends of the Buffer Land; and
 - Buffer Land to be added as ongoing agenda.

c) Chair Verbal Report

- Review of past Committee actions;
- Possibility of Committee OneDrive to be discussed with staff; and
- Meeting time change to 6:00 p.m.

8. Correspondence

- No Correspondence received.

9. Other Business

a) Royal Roads University (RRU) Student Nick DeCarlo, Thesis Topic for Input, Metchosin Buffer Lands Potential Research Questions

- Ian Baxter provided background on the research proposal including the following two options:
 1. “Patterns of Invasive Species and Native Plant Composition Near Trails”
 2. “Buffer Land Asset & Ecosystem Service Hotspot Identification & Risk Assessment”

Committee Discussion:

- Value of Option 2:
 - Ian will request more information about the research plan for the next meeting for further discussion.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held on April 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.