

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

Minutes

**Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

**Regrets:** Kathy Atherton

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm

**1. Agenda, Additions, Approval**

- Agenda approved by consensus.

**2. Presentations**

- No presentations

**3. Public Participation**

**Sandi Lamb**, resident, in opposition to the draft Parks and Trails Master Plan. Feels the plan doesn't represent Metchosin's environmental values; 4,200 species found here. Doesn't like the use of the term "assets" re. Metchosin's parks and trails. Concerned about references to "subdivision." She asked Google about the Master Plan; Google stated that this does not reflect the ideals of those who want to protect the environment.

**Avril Yoachim**, resident, commented on the Master Plan. Feels this mainly serves Langford and Colwood. Asked about Duke Road East coming under PTASC and will there be a cost. Metchosin residents are unlikely to take their bikes to Royal Bay for shopping or other needs. PTASC should start over with the Master Plan.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, March 17, 2026**

- Approved by Consensus.

**5. Receipt of Minutes**

**a) Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee, March 24,2026**

- Biodiversity plan is with staff.
  
- Approved by consensus.

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Parks & Trails Master Plan Update - Draft Plan and Trails Table**

- Councillor Shukin reviewed key changes in the current draft plan:
  - Consolidated the recommendations; eliminated redundant sections;
  - Several sections to appear as appendices: OCP references, past P&T trail projects, public engagement;
  - The current draft incorporates input from MEASC, Council, and general community comments; and
  - Further input was requested within the next 7-10 days.

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

- Ian Baxter provided background on further discussions with RRU.
- RRU is interested in opening wide-ranging research projects for its students in the fall of 2026.
- Ian Baxter summarised Mr. DeCarlo's research proposal:
  - Project overview: How may plant composition and associated ecosystem services of habitat quality and stormwater management change with further regional development and climate change?
  - Building a better understanding of the environmental values of the Buffer Land.
  - Research would be delivered at no cost to the District.

**Moved** by Ron Aubrey

THAT the Committee recommend that Mr. DeCarlo's research be given approval to proceed, and Council direct staff to coordinate next steps.

**Carried**

**7. Reports**

**a) Parks & Trails Coordinator Verbal Report**

- Inquiry on a new memorial bench.
  - Locations, overall approval process, costs, timespan (renewals), and experience with previous benches.
- Process for when calls come in about trails issues.

**b) Council Liaison Verbal Report**

- The District's 2026 budget process is nearing completion; and
- Work continues on moving the Buffer Land to park status.

**c) Chair Verbal Report**

- Several matters have been sent to the CAO for comment, including Beckingham Trail status; Colwood stormwater system/ Latoria Creek; potential of a OneDrive for shared documents; mapping for the Master Plan.

**d) Buffer Land -Letter from Friends of the Buffer Land (Friends)**

- Ian Baxter summarised the letter from Friends Chair Richard Simpson and Provided background on discussions with RRU:
  - RRU is interested in opening wide ranging research for its students.

**Committee Discussion:**

- At the April 13 Committee of the Whole meeting Council discussed this and resolved that the Mayor send a letter to RRU indicating its support for student research.

**8. Correspondence**

**9. Other Business**

**a) New Business Item - Trail Review**

- Ian Baxter proposed a monthly Trail report by PTASC members:
  - Each member walk a trail and return with a status report;
  - Goal is that PTASC systematically review all of District trails,
    - Assignments were determined: Caroline - Libra; Jay - Chapel Heights/Cliff; Chris - Blinkhorn; David - new Beckingham Trail; Emma - Eleanor Mann; Ian - Hillman; Ron - Farhill and Park Drive; everyone to walk the Buffer Land.

**b) Role of PTASC/ Terms of Reference Discussion**

**Committee Discussion:**

- Members reviewed reasons for joining including: to contribute to the community; to support and help build and maintain trails; improve safety; meet other people with similar commitments; and help protect Metchosin.
- PTASC is an advisory body to Council, not necessarily the "boots on the ground."
- Expansion of the Trail Steward's program.

**c) Trail Steward Program on Website**

- Desire to build out the program;
- Discussion about an article in the Muse, calling for new members; and
- Members sought clarification about the role description.

## **10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next meeting is May 19 at 6:00pm.