

DIRA Executive Minutes

January 6, 2025

Old School

Attendees:

Ron Shepherd (chair), Stirling Fraser, Jenny Balke, Chris Danks, Andrew Pringle and Claudia Kroll-Gray

1. Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM.
2. Motion to approve minutes from the November 4, 2024 executive meeting - seconded and passed.

3. **Bookkeeping Transition:**

Once the year-end financial information from all committees has been consolidated, likely in Feb or Mar, Ron will start working with the new bookkeeper to transfer the DIRA financial recording.

4. **Bottle Depot Changes:**

The bottle depot manager has introduced the following strategies to reduce expenses:

- off-season operating hours have been reduced by half an hour per day. The recycling centre has also reduced the same operating hours,
- the number of charity bins has been reduced from 34 to 24,
- charity bin payouts will be reduced from quarterly to once per year,
- the handling fee charged to the charities will increase from 15% to 30%, and
- waste management will pay the bottle depot portion of the rent charged by the Old School.

There was a motion to approve waste management (CVRD funded) paying the bottle depot rent. All board members voted in favour. MOTION PASSED

5. **Community Dock and Boat Ramp Committee:**

The boat tied up at the dock for some time (Kicking Horse) has finally been removed by the owner. However, moorage was not paid.

The moorage fee for one resident is still outstanding which the committee is considering options such as allowing a specified time to pay and then, if not paid, forward to small claims court.

Structural issues with the dock have been identified and will be addressed.

2 new members have joined the committee.

An agreement has been made with Mainroad to clear snow from the parking lot when required.

BC Ferries is currently doing after hours emergency offloading of BC Ambulance patients. The committee intends to follow up with BC Ferries regarding payment for the use of the dock.

There has been some discussion regarding increasing revenue by reducing the number of free hours from 6 to 3.

There has also been some discussion regarding becoming a Harbour Authority, which may increase funding opportunities and other support.

6. Hornby/Denman Health; Volunteer Recruitment Event

Hornby/Denman Health is hosting an event on Sat Nov 1, 2025 to introduce volunteer run organizations to the community. Jenny will communicate with the organizer and coordinate potential DIRA and committee involvement.

7. Old School Grant for Heat Pump:

The old school has submitted an application to the CVRD Rural Enhancement Program to pay for a heat pump.

8. Possible New Road Committee:

There was interest at our last public meeting in setting up a Roads Committee, however that has not happened yet, possibly due to health issues.

Jenny has been communicating with a contact at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to organize a community meeting to discuss road issues. That meeting will likely need to be in the daytime for MOTI involvement. DIRA will discuss the possible daytime meeting at our next public meeting in February to determine if residents are interested.

9. BC Ferries, Ferry Advisory Committee:

The Ferry Advisory Committees will be disbanded on March 31, 2025. The new process for residents to communicate with BC Ferries has not been determined, however it looks like BC Ferries is favouring a one-on-one process.

Most FAC members have now resigned.

There is a problem with the fire suppression system on the Baynes Sound Connector which reduces capacity by 12 cars.

BC Ferries is currently investigating the possibility of widening the Baynes Sound Connector.

10. **2025 Meeting Schedules:**

Executive agreed to the following schedule of board and public meetings:

Public Meetings, second Monday (third monday if stat) of the following months:

February, March, April (AGM & Rec Grant), June, September, October and November

Board Meetings, first Monday (second if stat) of the following months:

January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October and November

11. **2025 Board:**

The current board indicated their intention for next year:

Ron will not be returning,

Claudia will not be returning,

Stirling is undecided,

Andrew may be moving,

Jenny will return, and

Chris will return.

12. **Agenda Items for February Meeting:**

So far, updates are expected from the Dock & Boat Launch Committee and the Ferry Advisory Committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30.