

Denman Island Residents Association Public Meeting February 18, 2019

Present: Robert French; chair, Doug Wright, Andrew Pringle, and 6 members

1. Public Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M.
2. Motion to adopt the agenda - moved, seconded and all in favour - PASSED
3. Motion to approve minutes from January 14, 2019- moved, seconded and all in favour - PASSED

4. Chair Report:

Robert French advised that Jack Forsyth has agreed to chair the Recreation Grants for 2019.

5. Doug presented the Community Dock Committee preliminary plan for expanding the dock with a concrete breakwater on the outside (for wave attenuation) with inside fingers which will be good for additional moorage. Doug has reports which estimate the life expectancy of concrete docks is 40 to 50 years. The Dock Committee would like to hire McElhanney Engineering to advise on the appropriate size for the breakwater, the effect of how current wave conditions are contributing to the deterioration of the dock and other technical information related to moving forward.

There was a motion to approve DIRA spending \$3,500 (Dock Committee money) to hire McElhanney Engineering for initial engineering services relating to the dock and concrete breakwater.

The motion was moved, seconded and everyone voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

6. Committee Reports:

Waste Management Committee:

In addition to the new program for electronics recycling a contract has been signed for the collection of small tools and appliances at the recycling centre.

Parks Committee:

Co-chairs, Laura Pope and Peter Karsten

Tim Fuchs read the following presentation:

Morning Beach Park – The staircase and slope still have issues with stability and stair maintenance. Laura plans to prepare some of the wire mesh on the upper stairs, and some remediation may be needed on the gabions at the foot of the

staircase, the mesh gauge too wide for dogs. The lower slopes are still sloughing in the winter storms. Peter is presently preparing information signs for the Park.

Proposed Piercy Road Park – In May 2018, at the request of Piercy Road residents, the DIRA PC had approached the CVRD to entertain turning the 1.5 acre beach access on Piercy Road into a Regional Park. In August the CVRD Board approved applying to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) for control of the property. The CVRD has canvassed the adjacent neighbors and all are on board. The CVRD has applied to MOTI for the park use permit and begun to formulate plans for the entryway and parking. The DIRA PC would like to plan a public notification and community introduction to the new park when it is established. Hopefully it can coincide with the establishment of another new trail in the northlands BC Park.

BC Parks:

East side/gravel pit access. The DIRA PC has been pursuing access to the east side of the Park connecting Park Road to the gravel pit access. Through negotiations with the CVRD the stretch of old road alongside the gravel pit is now a CVRD right of way (R/W), which connects to the trail system within the Park. Currently there is no established access to this R/W. Through negotiations with BC Parks a new trail connecting Park Road to the R/W has been located by the DIRA PC. An environmental assessment has been completed and the trail location has been approved. BC Parks would like to have this trail built or at least funded by the end of March. When completed the DIRA PC would like to introduce the residents to this trail.

Chickadee Lake Trail – On February 5th , members of the DIRA PC assisted the BC Parks Technician in the erection of four new signs. The signs direct the public to the trail location and provide information on the sensitivity of the trail and Lake.

Ant Hill Trail – In early January members of the DIRA PC cleared fallen trees off of the trail. The area is heavily infected with root rot.

Northlands BC Parks Management

Trails Committee:

Chair, Alan Danks

Tim Fuchs read the following presentation:

Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD):

Cross Island Trail (CIT) – The CIT is continually maintained by the DIRA TC. The TC has purchased a second larger battery for our leaf blower, which is very efficient at removing smaller debris from the trail. The CVRD has purchased a few truckloads of fine gravel to be used for repairs to the trail and has stored the gravel at the Denman Island Volunteer Fire Department (DIVFD) parking area. The CVRD is still entertaining the extension of the CIT (currently ending at the East Road/Corrigan Road intersection) along East Road to Owl Crescent. Agreements with private landowners would need to be negotiated, environmental and engineering concerns would need addressing. The CVRD is also working on the West Ferry to Downtown section, specifically the Kirk Road connection to the existing trail along the beach that runs North from the ferry terminal. They are meeting with an engineering firm in the next couple of weeks as they will do some initial surveying to see where the Kirk Road right of way boundaries are and where and what shape of staircase could be built to link the existing beach trail to the paved portion of Kirk Road.

Flail Mower – The trails committee is in the process of purchasing a flail mower for more efficient trail maintenance. The purchase will be funded by the Parks Committee (PC), the TC, and the Denman Firefighters Association has agreed to cover two-thirds of the cost.

BC Parks:

Trail maintenance was carried out in the northlands portion of the Park on January 4th, and storm cleanup of fallen trees and trail maintenance was carried out in Boyle Point Park on February 2nd.

Marine Guardians:

BCIT ecological students will be spending the afternoon of March 29th with Marine Guardians listening to presentations and visiting the beach.

7. Liaison Reports:

BC Ferry Advisory:

The last of the no fare increase years is starting in April 2019 and negotiations are underway between BC Ferries and the government for future years.

A new website is about to be launched which will enable passengers to buy tickets and make reservations online (applicable to 3 major routes only).

Traffic has been up by about 5% on the smaller routes and steady on the major routes.

There is an Operations meeting on Feb 26th where local issues will be discussed.

Some residents expressed confusion regarding where to stop at the bottom of the hill (at the light or at the line) and concern was expressed regarding the times when no ferry is available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.