

Denman Island Residents Association (DIRA) Parks Committee (PC) Report, presented at the general meeting February 18, 2019

Co-chairs, Laura Pope and Peter Karsten

Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD):

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 Plan – Laura is currently working with BC Parks on the early stages of information gathering for the future plan.