

Shawnigan (Area B) Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Jun 16, 2011 7pm SLCC

Attendees: Margaret Symon, Al Brunet, Bill Savage, Catherine Whittome, Lori Treloar, Gaileen Flaman

Guests: Fire Chief Dan Fries, Brian Jackson, Rick Coles

Meeting called to order: 7 pm

May 19 minutes approved

Guest presentation: Dan Fries

Dan Fries advised that the Fire Department has had very little support from MOTi to keep the road ends clear. The fire department has a list of key road ends useful for their purposes and assesses them on an ongoing basis. Their draft equipment needs specific requirements so some road ends are not suitable. Once or twice a year, 5 or 6 firefighters go out to the road ends on their regular practice night to make sure that the access is clear and available. The Fire Department doesn't need more access to the lake but would be happy if there were more. Fire hose can be laid a long distance from the lake. Hydrants are not a primary source for the department or always reliable but, if available, they are always hooked up. A big concern for the department is a large interface fire. Reciprocal agreements are in place with neighbouring fire departments to respond in need. Margaret advised that the control of the road ends will remain under MOT. However, amenities can be added. The spill in Goldstream had a significant effect on the MOT managerial staff. According to Rick Coles, Chris Gordon is the current MOT area manager.

Guest presentation: Rick Coles

Rick Coles advised that the waterfront at the north end of Mill Park is full of garbage, dock parts and Styrofoam. He has offered his boat and gas to clear the area if volunteers can be found. He advised that the congested area used to be a small lagoon. As the lake level is dropping, late fall might be a more appropriate time to proceed. Margaret Symon will talk to Scott Noble, the environment teacher at Shawnigan Lake School and check with fisheries. It was also suggested that roadbed be added to the trails to improve all-weather use of the park. Also, improving the paths would allow a small vehicle in there to help haul out garbage.

Business Items

Margaret Symon will invite the CVRD bylaw officer to attend a meeting.

Al Brunet provided an update on the Norbury Road issue. A new resident on Norbury has installed a dock calling it private property. The RCMP has advised that you can use any dock as long as you do not access it through private property. Structures on road ends could become liabilities. The CVRD bylaw officer attended the Norbury road end. He advised that a dock can be placed anywhere on the lake. The neighbour has now moved his dock from in front of the private property and anchored it off the right-of-way. The owner next to the right-of-way must remove the fence posts he had installed but will be able to put up some kind of fence along his property.

Shawnigan Hills

The RFQ for the washroom building was in a recent local paper. Mike Miller will be the manager for the project.

Worthington/Cullin

Catherine Whittome and Bill Savage attended the recent APC meeting. Graham Ross-Smith had drawn up a letter with recommendations from the APC to the CVRD regarding the development proposal. Catherine Whittome advised that she and Bill Savage were not given the letter to read. Graham Ross-Smith read some of it out loud for their benefit. In their letter, they asked for *as much as possible* of the waterfront. Bill Savage pointed out that we can only reasonably ask for 5% and that the APC should have supported the Parks recommendation of 5% along the waterfront. Margaret Symon advised that if people wanted to make comments to the owner of the property they could do it through Denny Carrier (JE Anderson and Associates) at drc@jeanderson.ca. This contact will also be published in the next issue of the Shawnigan Focus.

Memory Island

Margaret Symon thanked Bill Savage who was instrumental in facilitating the recent clean-up on Memory Island. He ferried people and debris to and from the island with his boat. A crew of six CVRD summer students removed broom, and surface and ladder fuels. Danger trees were removed beside one of the outhouses, and from the work areas. Approximately 70% of the broom is gone and the crew did a great job. Shawnigan Fire Department supported the project. Bill Savage advised that the outhouses still need work. They are rotting out at the base. Memory Island should be scheduled for regular vegetation management every spring. The summer crew will also work at Spectacle Lake and spend a week on the Silver Mine Trail.

Shawnigan Beach Estates facelift

The leftover plants from Ecole Mill Bay Ecostravaganza have been donated to the facelift project at the entrance to the Shawnigan Beach Estates. Gaileen Flaman advised that the project design might be partnered with the Permaculture workshop at OUREcovillage in July. She has also contacted Kirsten Schrader regarding a possible "art piece" for the area. The project completion could coincide with the SLAM festival in September. Gaileen Flaman advised that the CVRD sent a letter to every resident of Shawnigan Beach Estates regarding the Green Belt areas. She will forward the letter to the members of the commission.

Boating Signs

It was agreed by the Parks Commission members that the new signs are not serving their intended purpose. They are unreadable in passing and it was felt that no one would stop to read them. The text is too small and there is too much information on the sign. It also does not address the fact that speed is not the only issue, particularly with the large wake boats. In fact, the slower a wake boat travels, the more wake they make and the more potential damage they create.

Invasive Species

The proliferation of a number of invasive species in the Shawnigan area is a major concern. Hogweed and Poison Hemlock are two of the worst offenders at this time. The CVRD is doing their best to deal with the problem and will be contacting other government bodies for advice and help. Margaret Symon will write an article about the invasive species for the next issue of the Shawnigan Focus.

Park Properties

CVRD forwarded a document re: disposal of park properties. Tabled until next meeting.

Area Director's Report: Area Director unable to attend.

Motions:

"The Shawnigan Lake Parks and Recreation Commission proposes that the surface and the bottom of Shawnigan Lake be designated as a Regional Park". All in favour.

"The Shawnigan Lake Parks and Recreation Commission requests that gates be installed at the boat launches to monitor summer boat access to the lake" All in favour.

Field Visit - Park Meeting

July 7 at 5:30 the commission members will meet at Bill's to visit some road ends. Brian Jackman suggested that we check to see whether any of the road ends on our list are privately owned. For instance, Ceylon on the water side, shows on some old maps but it is now privately owned. Road ends are considered Crown land.

Margaret Symon will bring previous commission minutes to the next meeting so that the members can go through and identify previous motions that need to be presented again to the CVRD.

Meeting adjourned 9:10

Next Field Meeting: July 7, 2011

Next Regular Meeting: July 21, 2011