



Ocean Beach Esplanade Stewardship Advisory Committee

June 17, 2014

Notes of meeting at Chaster House, 1549 Ocean Beach Esplanade, Elphinstone, BC

Present: Bruce Armstrong (Chair), Fran Heppell
Regrets: Trish Wray, Laurella Hay, Jan Paris, Steph Pugsley
Absent: Ray Bailey, Doreen Bartley, Rob Bone
Also Present: Lorne Lewis, Director, Elphinstone (Area E)
Sam Adams, Parks Planning Coordinator
Diane Corbett, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER 3:30 pm

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to use Chaster Park for sports training and competition purposes

Discussion ensued regarding a recent request from Birgit Breuer of Sunshine Coast Spirit of Excellence to install in Chaster Park beach volleyball courts for sports training and competition purposes. Comments from discussion regarding the request included:

- The Chaster Park covenant intent is very clear: “No garbage cans, porta-potties, picnic tables, benches.” The proposal is not consistent with the terms of the covenant.
- The proposed activity would be contrary to the work being done trying to bring the park into a natural state. We are trying to restore and preserve the park.
- Issues:
 - Proximity of the park to a residential area
 - Exclusive use of the park for volleyball
 - Lack of adequate parking
 - No toilets (available or allowed)

Action: The Parks Planning Coordinator will contact Ms. Breuer.

2. Second Street Trail

The Chair reported there used to be a gravel switchback trail at Second Street that enabled people who lived in the Grandview area above Gower Point / Bonniebrook to walk down to the Esplanade. As the trail is now, it cannot be traversed easily since part of the trail that was on private property was removed. It was suggested that a trail or stairs would enable people from Grandview to visit the area without a car.

Action: The Parks Planning Coordinator will look into the right of way of the trail.

3. Parking at access points where there is “no parking”

Discussion ensued on the challenges in trying to prevent parking at beach access points on Ocean Beach Esplanade.

4. Lorne’s tree

New signage had been posted at the site of the fallen tree on the shoreline beside Ocean Beach Esplanade. The site was discussed. The tree has accumulated matter on the Gibsons side.

5. Project to connect the properties

Director Lewis announced that the Sunshine Coast Regional District would be applying to add adjacent Crown land to the title of Chaster House. When the Chaster House lot was surveyed many years ago, Chaster House was beside a sandbar; the Crown land area under consideration was accreted. The goal in obtaining this would be to add to the shoreline buffer. The Squamish Band would be consulted.

It was noted that Simon Fraser University did an archaeological survey in 1977 along the coast; there should be something on record regarding this site.

ADJOURNMENT 4:20 pm