

Minutes of the Town of Qualicum Beach Select Committee on Environment Regular Meeting held Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chamber, Municipal Office, 660 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, BC

Present: Councillor Barry Avis, Chair
Keeley Campbell, At-Large Representative of Youth
Michael Jessen, Alternate, Arrowsmith Watersheds Coalition Society
Guy Monty, Brant Wildlife Festival Organizers
Tom Whitfield, Brown Property Preservation Society
Sandy Robinson, Friends of French Creek Conservation Society
John Peacey, Alternate, Hamilton Marsh Committee of the Friends of French Creek Conservation Society
Geoff Ball, Milner Gardens & Woodlands, Vancouver Island University
Richard Crowley, Alternate, Mt. Arrowsmith Biosphere Foundation
Faye Smith, Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers
Jason Moore, Alternate, Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce
Nigel Cavanagh, Oceanside Development & Construction Association
Herbert Sullivan, Qualicum Beach Residents' Association
Dorothy Hofs, Chartwell Residents' Association
Pat Kingsford, Eaglecrest Residents' Association
Paul Kyba, North Qualicum Beach Homeowners' Association

Absent: Michele Deakin, Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society
Annette Tanner, Qualicum Beach Environment Committee Society
Cathy Francis, Qualicum Beach Waterfront Association
Peggy Ward, Qualicum Institute

Also Present: Staff: Bob Weir, Director of Engineering & Utilities
Sue Hood, Office Assistant

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Richard Crowley MOVED and Michael Jessen SECONDED, THAT the Select Committee on Environment adopts the October 6, 2010 Regular meeting agenda.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Paul Kyba MOVED and Sandy Robinson SECONDED, THAT the Select Committee on Environment approves the June 2, 2010 Regular and July 14, 2010 Special meeting minutes.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Town of Qualicum Beach Quality of Life Survey

Committee members reported their concern that the environment-related topics in the draft Quality of Life Survey, discussed and presented by the group to the Planning Department, may have been inadequately heard and acted upon by the Town in the final copy of the Quality of Life Survey distributed to the community.

Chair Barry Avis reported that Committee members would be provided with no less than a two-week period if a special meeting were to be called by the Chair.

COUNCIL

Council Motions – For Information

June 14, 2010 Council Motion:

THAT Council appoints Paul Kyba as the representative from the North Qualicum Beach Homeowners' Association to the Select Committee on Environment Committee and Joanne Hill as the alternate member.

September 13, 2010 Council Motion:

THAT the Council of the Town of Qualicum Beach requests the Mayor to write to the Premier of British Columbia and the Minister of State for Climate Action, and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources expressing opposition to the proposed Raven Underground Coal Project, noting that the Town of Qualicum Beach and the Province of British Columbia are both signatories to the British Columbia Climate Action Charter which states that reducing greenhouse emissions is a common goal of the parties to the Charter and noting concerns about potential impacts upon the environment of the Town of Qualicum Beach.

September 13, 2010 Council Motion:

THAT the Town of Qualicum Beach responds to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency confirming Council supports the following:

1. THAT Minister Prentice refer the environmental assessment of Compliance Coal Corporation's proposed Raven Underground Coal Project to a joint federal/provincial independent expert review panel for full public hearings (CEAR reference number 10-03-55529);
2. THAT Minister Penner ensure that the environmental assessment of the project is carried out by the same joint federal/provincial independent expert review panel conducting full public hearings;
3. THAT before any further consideration is given to the proposed project, comprehensive aquifer mapping and modeling of the entire Raven Coal tenure be completed – and fully publicly vetted. The 3100 hectare Raven tenure includes all or significant portions of the watersheds of Cowie/Cougar Smith creek, Tsable River, Wilfred (Coal) Creek, and Hindoo Creek which flow into Baynes Sound. It is essential that the hydrology and dynamics of these surface water systems and their interactions with groundwater be understood.

Status of Recommendations to Council

June 14, 2010 Council Motion:

THAT prior to considering amendments to the Pesticide Use Bylaw as recommended by the Select Committee on Environment, THAT Council refers the "Town of Qualicum Beach Pesticide Use Bylaw No. 650, 2010" to the Qualicum Beach Memorial Golf Club, Qualicum Beach Lawn Bowling Club and Semiahmoo Golf Centre Ltd. for their review and comment after Council has given the bylaw first reading.

July 12, 2010 Council Motion:

THAT Council supports the concept of Little Qualicum River Watershed Plan and that, at the next Select Committee on Environment, the Committee discuss further recommendations.

Referrals from Council

August 9, 2010 Council Motion:

THAT Council refers the July 22, 2010 letter from Lana Popham, MLA, Saanich South to the Select Committee on Environment, regarding importation of bees to Vancouver Island and requesting a moratorium.

August 9, 2010 Council Motion:

Council, by unanimous consent, referred the correspondence regarding the proposed Raven Underground Coal Mine Project to the Select Committee on Environment.

BUSINESS

Little Qualicum River Watershed Plan; A Feasibility Study

Michael Jessen MOVED and Geoff Ball SECONDED, THAT the Select Committee on Environment recommend that Council direct staff, and invite Streamkeepers and other community groups, to work with the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Coordinators to develop the next stages of the Little Qualicum River Watershed Plan; A Feasibility Study including implementation to determine costing, contributors, contributions and participants.

CARRIED

Committee members discussed the value of inviting Christina Metherall, Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Coordinator, Regional District of Nanaimo to the next meeting of the Select Committee on Environment. In the event that Christina Metherall is available to attend, a special meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the Little Qualicum River Watershed Plan; A Feasibility Study.

Faye Smith representing Streamkeepers left the meeting at 3:10 pm. Lynn Tomlinson, Alternate representing Streamkeepers joined the meeting.

Lana Popham, MLA Saanich South

Correspondence related to the Importation of Bees to Vancouver Island was noted by Committee members.

Sustainability ToolBox

Keeley Campbell, briefly summarized her experience as a student taking part in the environmental stewardship eight day course focusing on training young people to be sustainability leaders in their own schools and communities. Keeley Campbell will make a detailed presentation to the Committee at the next regular meeting to be held February 2, 2011.

Proposed Raven Underground Coal Mine Project

Paul Kyba MOVED and Herbert Sullivan SECONDED, THAT the Select Committee on Environment recommend to Council that the Town make the Civic Centre available to the Coal Watch group in order that they may hold a public meeting for the purpose of enhancing public knowledge concerning the impact of the proposed Raven Underground Coal Mine Project.

CARRIED

Annual Review and Priority Setting

Paul Kyba MOVED and Michael Jessen SECONDED, THAT the Select Committee on Environment, at the February 2011 meeting, self-evaluate its first year's performance, review its Terms of Reference and Key Issues, and provide a recommendation to Council, including an updated Key Issues and Action Plan.
CARRIED

The Chair asked that any wishes and concerns be compiled in advance for discussion at the next regular meeting in February 2011. The following items will be added to the February 2, 2011 agenda for further discussion:

- Has the Committee accomplished what it set out to do?
- Has the work of the Committee made a difference?
- Is the Committee mandate still relevant?
- Is the Committee decision-making process effective and what adjustments (if any) would make it better?
- Bylaw Enforcement – Dogs on the beach during Brant Festival

Chair Councillor Avis MOVED and Richard Crowley SECONDED, THAT the Select Committee on Environment recommend to Council that the Town be more active in the 2011 Brant Festival activities.
CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Michael Jessen MOVED and Nigel Cavanaugh SECONDED, THAT the Select Committee on Environment adjourns the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Councillor Barry Avis, Chair

Next Special Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.
Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, February 2, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.