

Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting March 18, 2008

Date: March 18, 2008
Time: 7:30 pm
Place: Otter Point Fire Hall
Chair: President, Arnie Campbell

Present: Arnie Campbell, John Charles, Ken Pungente, Erick James, Wayne Fritz, Sandy Barta, Bob Phillips

Regrets: Maureen Nelson
There were 40 members present.

Arnie introduced the OPSRRA Directors and guest Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director Erik Lund.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Byron Tweedy. Seconded by Rosemary Jorna. **Carried**

Announcements Arnie Campbell

1. The JdF Parks and Recreation Commission has written OPSRRA requesting our assistance in hosting a Parks Development Plan meeting in the near future. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss short- and long-term planning for the William Simmons Park. The park consists of 15 acres and came about mainly from a generous donation through the estate of Erik Sellars-St. Clare as well as lands purchased by the Parks Commission from BC Hydro and TimberWest.
2. OPSRRA received an offer from the Otter Point Business Park (old Otter Point log sort) owners: "We thought that we would offer to the community, through you (OPSRRA) the use of the log sort for community events that may come up. Please contact OPSRRA Directors if you have an event that you may wish to have considered by the owners of the business park."
3. CRD Parks Committee will hold a public consultation at Shirley Fire Hall March 19 at 7:00 pm. They are looking into possible parks acquisition west of Sooke and are looking for community input.
4. The Community Health Initiative is researching where food crops are being grown in the Otter Point/Shirley area. They are planning a focus group of food producers. Please contact Kate Ketteridge for information at 213-6695.

Approval of the Minutes OPSRRA Meeting November 2007 John Charles

John read out the minutes of the November Meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes by Sid Jorna. Seconded: Susan Issacs. **Carried.**

Membership Report Wayne Fritz

Membership as reported for the March, 2007 **AGM** was 357 members with 42 from Shirley and 315 from Otter Point. During the year we have added 34 new members with 7 residing in Shirley and 27 in Otter Point. Membership now stands at 370 with 49 in Shirley and 321 in Otter Point. We also have 10 Associate members who do not reside in our area and who do not have voting privileges, but support our association and wish to receive our monthly newsletter.

Motion to approve report by Brenda Mark. Seconded: Murray Tompkins. **Carried.**

Treasurer's Report Wayne Fritz

OPSRRA has a bank balance of **\$383.30** and a float of **\$11.11**: total **\$394.41**.

Expenses in the past year were:

Advertising	\$66.98	Bank charges	\$15.15
Hall rentals	\$25.00	Society fees	\$25.00
Web site	\$41.34	Total:	\$173.50

Income for the past year was \$285.24 from memberships (\$170), donations (\$85) and \$30 from the Vision Project to offset bank charges.

OPSRRA also serves as the "banker" for the OPSRRA Developing a Strategic Vision Project. Of the \$8,000 raised to finance the project, about \$5,300.00 remains.

Motion to accept report by Bruce Lemire-Elmore. Seconded: Michelle James. **Carried.**

President's Report Arnie Campbell

Arnie delivered the following report and circulated an email address sign-up sheet for those wishing to receive the monthly newsletter via email.

SUMMARY OF OPSRRA ACTIVITIES SINCE NOVEMBER 2007 MEETING

1. Board of Directors continued to meet monthly (4 times since the November 2007 membership meeting).
2. Published monthly newsletters on the OPSRRA web site and sent to about 200 members on email.
3. Continued to add local businesses to the web site's Business Services listings. Now have 25 listings
4. Continued to up-date the OPSRRA web page (www.opsrra.ca).
5. Maintained 17 Community Notice Boards. Some notice boards were moved to coincide with the new rural mail box locations.
6. Attended JDF Parks, SEAPARC, and JDF Land Use Committee meetings.
7. Wrote the Minister of Forests re the motion at the November, 2007 membership meeting requesting review of the removal of WFP's private forest lands from TFL 25.

8. Met with staff from the Office of the Auditor General investigating the province's decision to remove private forest lands from TFL 25.
9. Spoke at public meeting re Arden Mine application re water, noise and safety issues raised by neighbours. Raised issue of covenant.
10. Requested that CRD Planning Services provide more complete and understandable information on the proposed zoning and OCP changes
11. Presented at 6 public hearings on behalf of the OPSRRA directors in support of proposed OCP and rural zone changes
12. Continued work on developing a strategic vision for Otter Point and Shirley.
13. Met with senior WFP management re the conditional sale of private forest land in Shirley and Otter Point.
14. Requested assurance from the R.D. that the zoning review would be ongoing, that work of the Zoning Advisory Committees would be utilized and that the community would have an opportunity to comment on future proposed bylaw changes before they went to the Land Use Committee.
15. Continued to up-date members about funding for the Sooke Region Museum.
16. Organized an information meeting with representatives from JDF Community Trails Society, Otter Point Fire Department, Kemp Lake Waterworks District and OPSRRA at the request of the new Otter Point Business Park.
17. Spoke at LUC in support of the community consultation undertaken by 3L Development and the Otter Point Business Park.
18. Met with representatives of WFP re logging plans in local area watersheds.
19. Toured parts of the DeMamiel Creek area to view the area to be logged and to see the results of the area's increased use as an off-roading venue.
20. Wrote local agencies and organizations about developing concerns with mixed recreations uses in the area at the end of Tugwell Rd.

Cleo Gardener requested clarification of the role of OPSRRA concerning contacts with local developers. Arnie noted the aims of OPSRRA and outlined contacts with 3 developers in the past year. Bruce Lemire-Elmore had a question concerning the roles of OPSRRA Directors. Arnie noted that this would be reported on under New Business in the Agenda.

Motion to accept report Bruce Lemire-Elmore. Seconded: Susan Issacs. **Carried.**

Report of the Nominations Committee and Elections Ken Pungente

Ken reported that the nominations committee results: Arnie Campbell for President, Wayne Fritz for Vice-President and Bob Phillips for Secretary-Treasurer and for Directors Sandy Barta, John Charles, Erik James and Ken Pungente. He then asked Erik Lund to conduct the elections.

There were no further nominations for President, Vice-president or Secretary-Treasurer. Acclaimed in the following positions:

President Arnie Campbell
 Vice-President Wayne Fritz
 Secretary-Treasurer Bob Phillips

Erik then called for any further nominations for the 5 Director positions. There were two nominations: Cleo Gardener and Sarah Tidwell. Elections were then conducted by secret ballot. Sarah Tidwell, Sandy Barta, John Charles, Erik James and Ken Pungente were elected.

Motion to destroy ballots by Frank Mitchell. Seconded: John Charles. **Carried.**

New Business

1. Road Safety Issues Ken Pungente

Ken noted the hazardous condition of West Coast Road which is only 8 feet wide. There is no safe place for pedestrians to walk. There is a high volume of truck traffic that wears down the shoulders which have then been filled in with chunks of asphalt which then get flung out by trucks. Ken noted that he had written to Ministry of Highways about the safety issues way back in 1997.

The motion: “that OPSRRA petition the Minister of Transportation and MLA John Horgan to begin immediate work and repairs to West Coast Road and its main arterial roads in Otter Point and Shirley to insure safe use for pedestrians, vehicles, cyclists and equestrians” by Ken Pungente. Seconded: Bill Park. **Carried unanimously.**

Erik Lund that there is a GST rebate fund of approx. \$460,000 for the 3 electoral areas, but there are very strict limitations as to application.

2. Safety Concerns At The End of Tugwell Road Erik James and Arnie Campbell

The area at the end of Tugwell Road has seen an increase in off-road vehicle use in the past year. The most used is adjacent to the residential neighbourhood. Many concerns have been brought to OPSRRA’s attention, e.g. trucks and trailers parked in the area, people accessing areas damaging streams, wetlands and ground cover, noise from ATV’s and dirt bikes and using the location to leave garbage. OPSRRA has sent a letter of concern to 11 local agencies and organizations.

3. WFP Logging Plans in Local Watersheds Erik James and Arnie Campbell

OPSRRA Directors recently met with WFP reps. The areas to be logged and time lines were reviewed. There are water licences in place that could be impacted on Goudie, Jacobs, DeMamiel and Tugwell Creeks. Maps of the area are incomplete and WFP has made its maps available to the CRD. WFP has agreed to keep OPSRRA informed as to its activities.

4. Proposed Resource Lands OCP Arnie Campbell

The first draft is now out and on the CRD website and the deadline for response is March 21st. Arnie outlined some of the basic questions: (1) Should there be a buffer, like for ALR areas, between Shirley and Otter Point OCP areas? (2) Is there enough

protection for the watersheds? (3) Should there be additional recreation areas for commercial use?

Arnie asked members to get feedback and concerns to him ASAP.

5. Up-date on Developing a Strategic Vision for Otter Point & Shirley Wayne Fritz

The project is one year into the process. There are many changes occurring in our neighbourhoods, and it is important that local input be available as to directions. There have been around \$8,000 in donations to fund the project with 4 workshops being conducted and 2 more scheduled for April 5th and 19th. These final workshops will address what we value, goals and objectives and the strategies to “get there”. A report will then be drafted in May/June for comments and feedback. Hopefully the final document will be completed by late August or early September.

6. Communicating With the Membership Arnie Campbell

Arnie re-capped the issues around Tree Farm Licence 25 which resulted in proposed CRD zoning by-law changes: lot size and removal of strata titles. The OPSRAA Directors made a Board decision to support the proposed CRD by-law changes. He noted that the Directors made it clear that they were speaking as Directors. Subsequently 2 members with drew from OPSRRA. Arnie asked for comments and feedback.

Bruce Lemire-Elmore noted that BC Landowners were concerned that minority rights were not being respected with a possible outcome of splintering the community. Byron Tweedy observed that sometimes there isn't time for extended consultation and the Directors had behaved appropriately. John McCrae said that some people felt that the by-laws changes were too strongly endorsed by the Directors and suggested the use of email contact. John Wannamacher noted that the Directors had given notice via email and that this had meant that he was fully informed by OPSRRA. Don Collis stated that there wasn't a lot of time given the actions of the Provincial government and that the Directors had done the right thing. Rosemary Jorna felt that the BC Landowners could have contacted the OPSRRA Directors. Something had to be put in place by the CRD to provide a “breather” given the Provincial government action. People can still appeal the by-law changes. Director Ken Pungente reported that he canvases and talks to people and that OPSRAA is a very transparent organization. Ellen Lewers noted that she recently attended a BC Landowners meeting. There were 45 owners present representing their interests in about 25,000 acres. They are opposed to the CRD by-laws changes. Director John Charles noted that he is also a member of the BC Landowners and went to the same meeting. He felt that the challenge is that people must work towards cooperative changes in the best interests of the Shirley and Otter Point communities.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Bob Phillips, recorder