

Greg Doherty,

Chairman

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**AGENDA**

Meeting 7 Pm Tuesday July 2nd, 2019, at the Sandspit Yacht Club

Present: Greg Doherty, Nancy Doherty, Pam Eede, Peter Deane, Max Freeman, David Astbury, Jan Monk.

1. Apologies - Margaret McCallum, Warren Churches, Ron Dyer and Beth Houlbrooke.
2. Minutes of Last meeting. Moved Greg, 2nd Jan
3. Matters arising
* Greg will report about a meeting with ACC, Mike Feather and AT Engineer Bernard Pang. Bernard was adamant that we cannot do any work on the foreshore – planting and removal of plants will destabilize the bank. He said he could move some of his budget from the road to the plants. Bernard said the road repair is in the budget for this year. We won’t be able to re-landscape the area in the next few years.
* David will talk about Kauri Dieback.
1. Correspondence. Greg moved. 2nd Jan.

The Freedom Camping Bylaw is having to be reviewed as it had too many loopholes and allowed people to camp on any street.

Regarding the planting at the reserve at the beginning of Brick Bay Sinead will come and look at the planting as it was a bit wider than originally planned and the grass had been sprayed all the way from the edge of the estuary to the footpath.

Regarding the new water tank for the Brick Bay Beach Reserve Toilet Block – Beth said it has been ordered and will be installed in a few weeks, and then the Toilet Block can be re-opened. A conversation took place about the fact that the current water tank could be repaired but the Council wants to get a new one.

List of correspondence that was attached:



1. Treasurer’s Report- Margaret McCallum. No treasurer’s report
2. Social Media Report- Margaret McCallum. No social media report.
3. Parks & Reserves Reports
	* 1. Tracks- David Astbury. David talked about a sidetrack on the Pururi Road track. The Little Digger – did the job and David submitted the bill to be paid. Greg moved, Peter 2nd. David paid the bill so he will get reimbursed from SRRA.

Greg queried if there are more tracks that need maintenance with trenches by a digger and David said yes. David said it was a difficult job and the fellow did a good job without destroying the track.

Kauri Dieback – David Astbury. Initial correspondence came from Sinead. She wanted to know if there are still volunteers working in the Reserves around Sandspit. She said Reserves will be closed to prevent the spread of Kauri Dieback. David told her that volunteers are not working where there are Kauri trees. Sinead says once a reserve is closed nobody can enter the reserve.

Mike Smith replied to Sinead – surely if there are no Kauris in a reserve there is no need to close it.

David replied to Sinead that it is essential that she has a site visit to establish which sites require closure. A conversation took place about how Auckland Council does not know where all the tracks and Kauri Reserves are. Apparently, some members came out on their own, without consultation with David or members of SRRA and couldn’t find the tracks. There needs to be better communication with the locals when members of the Council are coming out to Sandspit to do site visits.

David says when he refers to the Brick Bay Drive Reserve he refers to the 20 hectares which are behind his property and goes across to the Didsbury’s Winery. The properties which are 2 hectares and belong to John Anderson, the Astbury’s, Gaye Rowe are full of Kauris. The reserve runs well beyond that. David services the bait stations on private properties. That area of Kauri Reserve goes well up to Kauri Drive. There are trees that are well over 150 years old.

Sinead is talking about closing tracks with metal on them.

David expressed his frustration at dealing with the Council – that they don’t communicate.

David is trying to get a meeting with the Council people so that we are all on the same page. David is communicating with Sinead about her upcoming visit.

Greg asked David if he is looking after the Rat Bait Stations.

* + 1. Predators & Weeds
		2. Mangrove Control,
		- Mangrove Removal set for July 14th 10 am. Sign has been put up and SYC was notified requesting they inform their members. Greg will bring his trailer.

David said notify Grant Brown before the Mangrove removal about the time and where to meet.

1. Civil Defense Report-- Max Freeman - there were 2 earthquakes in Taupo and caused a sewage pipe to burst into Lake Taupo. People have been banned from flushing toilets. Nothing local has happened.
2. Social Functions/Membership Report -- Pam Eede. July 23rd, Social event for the Ratepayers Committee at 6pm at Margaret and Bruce McCallum’s house, 40 Kanuka Road, Sandspit. Pam will phone and notify people as what to bring.
3. General Business – Peter Deane talked about the Pestival. An event by Auckland Council. About 100 people were there including paid staff from Auckland and DOC. Discussions took place about catching pests and regenerating native bush. A fellow said that back in the 1960’s it was his business trapping pests, and at that time there was no community buy-in. This fellow is amazed at how the community is now so motivated. The Council says there is a big buy-in from schools. There were speakers about how pests affect native birds. When the pests go away, the native birds come back and the introduced species the mynahs etc go away. But also the native species like the rewarewa and the fantail increase because the pests aren’t harming them. A mauri fellow talked about the Kaipara catchment goes from Kaipara in the north, down to Kumeu and getting rid of the pests on the corporate scale is having a huge effect.

A fellow stood up and talked about how he’d been organizing volunteer groups. The Council has been talking about – Kill Pests, Pull your Weeds and plant your Natives. Peter got up and said how Auckland Council aren’t interested in pulling their own weeds – and the towards Hill Street there is endless Privet. Peter said why don’t they give these jobs to the Volunteer Groups. This got a big round of surprise which surprised Peter.

There was then a feedback session that a meeting could be had to get people together who had similar interests, because there are new people coming on board all the time. The information sharing would be of great benefit. Peter felt there was a great groundswell of community support.

David said there was the Forest-Bridge Trust that is trying to get areas of bush going from the East to West Coast to get a corridor for birds and creatures to be able to travel. He said the Takatu Landcare Group were impressive. They’re involved in pest and plant destruction of noxious weeds on the Tawharanui Penninsula. They put a pest free fence across the Penninsula and that is where the Takahe have come from Little Barrier Island. It opens to let people in and creates a pest free area.

David said there was a lot of practical advice.

Max said he heard on the radio that there are 24 million possum.

Nancy asked what is the best trap for trapping possums. David said a Timms Trap.

David said he went to Peter Bilton to tell him some signage needed replacing.

Greg said he is doing a printed newsletter that hopefully can go out on Monday. He asked for printed information on Pestival.

Our SRRA got a certificate from Auckland Council for our community work.

David said we need to have more communication on a regular basis. Currently we have the Facebook SRRA page which he said isn’t very good. He said we need a one-sheet concise newsletter sent out by email. It could have the AGM, Elected officers – what their roles are. What their contacts are. Key ideas you can approach these people with if you have a concern. When meetings are – a venue – and invite attendance. A better overview of new residents – their arrivals and departures. Something that keeps people involved. Feedback and dialogue on issues. David says what we need on the committee is this communication/publicity role. Communication is the lifeblood of any organization and we’re not really doing a great job of it.

Jan said that as a newcomer to this area she had no idea what the SRRA does in the community. She said people don’t know what we are doing – and people who only come up on weekends could not know what is going on. She agrees with what David is saying.

Greg says we have Mail Chimp and it is not a huge job to convert our information into Mail Chimp. He said it also complies with all the anti-spam legislation. People can opt in and opt out. You can see who’s reading the email and who’s not. And you can have click throughs – through to our website.

David offered to manage Email communication with MailChimp.

Pam asked if the SRRA was notified of the new speed limit signs on our part of Sandspit Road. Greg said a notification came out about 6 months ago about changes in signage. No notification was issued immediately before the signs went up. The general feeling among the committee was we don’t need to be notified of upgrading of signs.

Nancy attended the Friends of Awa Matakanakana Catchment Inc Inaugural AGM at the Matakana Community Hall on Sunday June 23 at 2pm.

Regarding the Awa Matakanakana AGM. There were 19 people in attendance. John Collins said he will come to the SRRA September 10 meeting and share latest information with us. The goals of FOAMI are to establish clear waterways. Greg moved that SRRA joins FOAMI as an organization. Greg will let Margaret know. The group moved that we join. Beth Houlbrooke talked at the meeting and told FOAMI how they are eligible for funding.

John Collins says they will promote kayaking on the waterways and cycling alongside the waterways. In their testing they will test for ammonia which is recent contamination. They will start testing bacteria samples. The community has shown it is interested in Riparian planting.

It was suggested they have a newsletter every 3 months. And that a drone can profile rivers. The University of Auckland has students doing their master’s who would be keen to help.

Beth Houlbrooke was the guest speaker. She said FOAMI are a high priority for the local board. She said when walking tracks are open people become interested in the environments. Groups like FOAMI help the Community Board to achieve their goals. From July 1 there is a recommendation to widen eligibility for funding so FOAMI can apply.

FOAMI will have access through Sinead to access the correct plants to plant along waterways. She suggested once a month come to a local board meeting and let them know what the group is doing. Let the local board know what you’re doing and they will see that the right council people are there. Beth said they should point to the outcome that is in the Rodney Plan.

Next Meeting Tuesday September 10, 2019 (No meeting in August)

Meeting ended at 8 25pm.