



Greg Doherty,
Chairman
1262 Sandspit Rd.
Warkworth RD2 0982
021 825 391 gregd@hqh.com
<http://sandspit.net.nz/>

SANDSPIT RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting 7 Pm Friday December 4th, 2020 , at 40 Kanuka Road.

Present: Greg Doherty, Nancy Doherty, Margaret McCallum, Peter Deane, Beth Houlbrooke, Local Community Board.

1. Apologies Jan Monk (resigned), Warren Churches, Ross Sutherland.
2. Minutes of Last meeting (attached)
3. Matters arising

Peter has a meeting arranged with AT for 9 am Dec 8th re Dangerous corners, will also raise question about Bus Shelter.

Historical Signage project to discuss under projects.

Past minutes: re Trevor Horner's Bench repair/replacement. Ken McLean has ordered the Timber and once we have that we can start constructing it. It is assumed that Ken McLean will have the wood for the bench on Saturday.

Discussions re:

- Ambulance Support
- Fire Awareness Signs








Peter to follow up and report back.

Promote the Matakana Trail Trust Pledge form to go out in an e-News
Greg and Stephen to implement. That will be sent out in the next

e-News. Greg and Stephen are to go to a meeting with the Matakana Trail Trust at The Oaks. The date is not yet finalized.

Distribute Fire safety Booklets, Volunteers to manage distribution requested. We need to distribute the books. If we divide the booklets into the number of people on the committee we can share the putting of the booklets into the letterboxes.

4. Correspondence

-  20201110 Hana Aickin SRRA_ACC meeting
-  20201110 Sandspit Reserve Status report Sinead
-  20201111 Sinead RE GS Specs
-  20201113 Comm Gp Consultation letter.1
-  20201125 Update on Carpark
-  20201127 Update on Carpark and Waste Facility
-  20201129 FOAM Community Consultation

Hana Aickin was summarizing the meeting she had with David, Mike Smith and Greg. Hana is the Environmental Services Delivery person. She was covering how we'll do volunteer work at the roadside.

Sinead sent a report through regarding GS -General Service Specs; and HV meaning High Value Sites. There are no High Value Sites in Sandspit. Sites marked GS, receive one visit a year and HS means a High Ecological Value. We have a list of the weeds that the contractor will look at once a year. There are no High Value Sites in Sandspit.

Peter said the Reserves have a whole different policy to the Roadsides. Greg said that it would be great to have the Sandspit Road – Green Point to Lees Boatyard, covered. He says we should talk to Ngati Manahiri regarding these areas.

We need to mention it, because the weeds which should be dealt with are growing in the area and nobody is doing anything about it. Council tells us these areas are hands off. Greg says this would fall into our Weed Control group.

Greg says the problem is that Green Point and the foreshore along Sandspit Road from Green Point to Leys Boatyard are not being tended and the weeds are growing. The weeds on the noxious list are growing profusely.

Greg contacted Sinead and said Green Point is not in a category and he has said that he will contact the Local Board about getting its classification changed. He said to Sinead that Ecological Control is not being performed. Sinead said it will be difficult to change at this time due to significant Budget Loss in Council. Sinead said to contact the Local Board to get this changed from a community perspective. Any works in Green Point need to be taken with care as it is a Historic Site and planting cannot incur. Greg asked Beth how we can get Ecological Contracts for Green Point and then for the foreshore. Beth said she's been working on this for a couple of years – how to get volunteer groups to become Preferred Suppliers. Beth said she has said to the Council – this is the time you are trying to make savings. Pete said we have a big team ready to go. Beth says we need to put an example of a project in front of him. Beth said we should draw it up as a proposal, on this bit of land, these are the species we want to deal with. This is how we'll deal with them. How many people have we got involved. Has anybody done Health and Safety training with tools or poisons. Put all that in a proposal and send it to Jazz Singh. Say here is a pilot for you to test for the new policy you are trying to write. Here's a pilot for you to test. Greg and Pete think Green Point would be a good approach. It's a small, definable area. Greg and Pete will go talk to Ngati Manahiri at their headquarters in the Old Courthouse. Beth says you can contact them through their website. We may need to hire some

contractors to do the weeding as the RSSA Committee members are seniors and can't be crawling along the cliffs.


Pete says we should start with a small definable project like Green Point.

Greg mentioned the meeting with FOAM. He said it was an excellent meeting. Beth said they were up to a high standard and have experts in their fields. The meeting was 18 different community groups together.

Beth said it's clear that regarding the Parking Lot on the Sandspit, that there will not be a paid system up and running before Christmas. The Council needs to get a License to Occupy regarding the house on the Sandspit. Greg asked if the Team that is managing the Spit – would we be hearing from them. Beth said not until next year. Beth said that regarding all the different parks, there all these different management plans that can be applied to them. It is a detailed work, and for each Reserve different policies will apply to them. Each Reserve will have a Policy that applies to it.

Greg moved the Correspondence be Received. 2nd Pete.

Treasurer's Report- Margaret McCallum (attached). Margaret moved the report be received. 2nd Nancy. There was a problem with a payment that Greg and Margaret both authorized. They will sort it out.

 20201130SRRA Treasurer's report November 2020

5. Social Media Report- Margaret McCallum N/A
6. Landcare Volunteer groups

i. Walking Tracks Maintenance *Coordinator - David Astbury*

Kotare Track Maintenance

This steep track was in poor repair & placed in the 'too hard' basket for the Brick Bay volunteer group. No tractor / trailer access because of steep slope & acute corners. It is a moderately well used walking track linking Kotare Place with the Sandspit - Horseshoe Bay track. 9 cubic metres of metal was spread.

Thanks to SRRA funding I have been trying to get achieve realign / repair & add side drains since February.

- Tuesday 17th November - track was reformed and Gap40 metal and lime surface applied
- Thursday 26th November - 9 Brick Bay volunteers dug side drains, 2x cross drains laying drainage culvert & nova flow & used a plate compactor to consolidate track metal. Ask water engineer Peter Deane about the need for a larger diameter pipe !!

In summary

- Cost came in at \$1,256.38 which was under estimated cost of \$1500. Doug Reddell gave a \$713 credit as a community project. Thanks to Red Dell for this.
- 9 cubic metres of Gap 40 metal paid for by UMS. Cost of this from Wyatt's is approximately \$600.

Fantastic to have the project finished. Pete said compliments to David for managing the track projects.

Thanks SRRA committee for funding this work. It should be a long term asset to the community.

- ii. Predators and Trapping Coordinator Stephen Channing-Pierce Shooting of rabbits has continued since Lockdown ended. 125 rabbits around Kotare Place, Brick Bay have been eliminated. The shooter is a bit out of action as he has had a hip replacement and has been a bit too active. Stephen said you cannot eliminate rabbits – you can control.
- Greg commented at the FOAM meeting we met a trapper Jordie. He eliminated the last cats on Little Barrier. He told us "I don't go for Control; I go for eradication". Jordie said he'd come and talk to our community. Margaret said we should invite general residents. Stephen said we need to sort out the places that are in 'no man's land' – that is between Snells Beach and Sandspit. Beth said the Council is mapping the groups that are Pest Control Groups in the area. Beth said there is now communication between groups. They are funding the groups, finding the gaps. And mapping where they are.

Greg and Stephen are looking at where the SRRA area is, and where the Matakana Ratepayers Group covers. (It's called the Mahurangi Community Forum, it's not a Ratepayers Group). Warkworth does not have a Ratepayers Group it's a Forum. Snells Beach has a Ratepayers Group with Paid Membership. They are looking at covering areas where they are not covered. This is for Pest Control and for other matters.

Beth said she sometimes sends Greg her full Community Group list. The purpose is so the groups can contact each other and cooperate among themselves.

Greg said there are some new Ratepayers members - Gary Evan and Shelley Trotter. They are part of a group of 4 large landowners.

Beth said Gary is doing the Snells Beach to Warkworth Walkway. They've done from Hamatama Road to Grange Road. Greg said they are happy to have Gary and Shelley working with them. They are also planning to work with the Monarch Downs group so they can help them.

For the main groups within the SRRA we have to get our vision with regards to tracks, and weeding. What is our vision for trapping. Who, what, when, where, why. We need to develop a plan for 20/21.

Beth asked did we want to have the plans of other groups? So that we don't have to invent the wheel. Beth will send the plans to Greg.

Greg asked Pete if he had a plan with regards to weeds. Pete said weeds on private property, weeds on road reserves, weeds on public reserves. On Auckland Transport land Hana says 'this is a slow process'. We have a team of 20 people who want to be volunteers for weeding. Pete will get them together and get working on a vision and get some action.

Pete says he needs to get moving on the Auckland Transport Land. Beth says she would be interested to know what their response is, as it's a question she sometimes gets asked by other groups and it get's put in the 'too hard basket'.

Beth said if Pete has the energy to stick it out, it would be a good blueprint.

Greg says volunteer groups aren't going to do what Auckland Transport does. They have a truck with flashing lights. If you're low risk and safety is not a problem then that's okay.

iii. Weed Management Coordinator *Peter Deane*

To discuss Council Correspondence

iv. Mangrove Control *Coordinator Greg Doherty*

Report on Mangrove Culling Nov 8th

Thanks to those who turned out on the day, we managed to get a lot of juvenile plants, approximately 150-200mm in height. It is apparent that constant culling reduces the proliferation of larger plants, that have choked some of the estuary.

The next suitable day with a low tide, likely to be **Sunday January 24th**. We had less than 10 volunteers this time but if we had 20 to 30 volunteers on the day we could make a much bigger, positive difference.

A conversation took place about the Mangroves. Hana is going to check out whether the New Zealand Mangroves are natives. The FOAM people are concerned about the species that are growing up the river.

Another conversation took place about why we cannot remove the mangroves. Nothing was solved.

v. Walking and Cycleway Development (discuss under projects)

7. SRRA Projects

i. Walking and Cycleway Development

1. Attachments There was a meeting attended by David Astbury, Chris Charles and Greg Doherty. The Vision Statement is to Create New Pedestrian Cycle Loops using unformed Legal Roads in the Community. There are several unformed legal roads that can be used. And some can link up with the proposed Matakana Coast Trail. And it was decided that the following can be a priority Creek Street to Beach Street – Cycleway and Pedestrian, can cater to both. This is relatively easy as there are no significant native plant species, it's second growth (wattle and privet, Elephant grass weeds,) minimal earth works, minimal impact on neighbours, and it creates a walking/cycling link to Sandspit for Creek Street residents. And theres a future potential link to the Matakana Trail if we find a way to get down

to the esplanade reserves. James Street to McCallum Drive can also be Cycleway and Pedestrian. An ideal link for the Maharangi Trail project at Lauries Reserve. There is bush and tree growth that needs to be preserved so we would have to make sure not to damage any significant trees. This would require engineering investigation, and engineering design. Chris Charles outlined that neighbour engagement is required, basic design of trail, planning assessment to see if a consent is required. If there is a consent required, necessary technical reports that would be required. AT written approval to construct. Community groups would need to take responsibility for maintaining the trail. Construction phase. Health and Safety needs to be managed. There must be a team leader. Must be signed off by AT concerning construction.

Chris Charles said he would accompany the group with regards to communicating with the neighbours. As he is from the Council he has some Authority to communicate about the matter.

The group has access to a digger with a mulching head on it. Greg says we can look in the community – example maybe Rhodes for Roads would like to volunteer a truck; or Wharehine might like to volunteer something.

Greg says there is a short chunk of bush to clear. There is an engineering firm that will do the work for free.

It is of major significance that we do not have to pay for the engineering.

Hutchison Engineering will do the work without charge.

Glance Street is dropped off the priority list right now.

Mainly that there is some nice kauri trees in there right now. We won't want to endanger the kauri trees.

On the future list is Cross Street/Creek Street South.

David says James Street will have the greatest benefit to the community. It seemed in the past to be too hard, but with the new group of people helping us it won't be too hard. Pete says it will require a preliminary investigation. Greg says Chris will follow up with the engineering regarding an underpath.

Margaret said James Street will be a 2nd exit from Sandspit if anything should happen to block up the road.

Greg asked if everyone was in favour of Beach Street/Creek Street; and of James Street extension. All were in favour.

Greg said "We approve the plan to date". Margaret 2nd.

Pete said we focus on James Street/McCallum Drive and Creek Street/Beach Street. Greg and David will work together on the Walking and Cycleway Projects.

Minutes of the meeting 27 November 2010 between David Astbury, Chris Charles, and Greg Doherty regarding Walking and Cycleway Projects are attached.

A conversation took place about the cycling paths. The width required is 2 ½ metres.

Historical Sandspit Signage. Greg's idea is that we put up signage about Historical Sites around Sandspit. Horseshoe Bay used to be called Bagnell's Bay. There was a boatbuilders shop in Bagnell's Bay and they built a 92 ton vessel there. There was a two story house in Horseshoe Bay where the builders and the workers lived. There is nothing to show that this used to be in existence. David said this is extremely difficult to accomplish and there is a often a public outcry against it. He said if you can find private land to put the signs on, it would be okay. To get permission to put it on public land would be extremely difficult.

Greg said that Friends of Awa Matakanakana want to have signage as part of their project so perhaps it would work if we could work with them.


David said that the Council can put signs where they want to.


Greg commented that the Council put signs on the way to the Wharf saying No Dogs. The signs are ambiguous and difficult to understand.


FOAM wants to do signs with regards to history around Sandspit. Greg thought signs inside the waiting room would be a good idea. It could be a good idea to have a historian help with the signs. FOAM wants the Council to allow permits for signs within their application. FOAM and SRRA could work together on the Signage. FOAM asked us to write a letter of support for their Application.

Greg commented that our Society has changed whereby we have all these rules we have to abide by.

2. Report on meeting Nov 27 (attached)
 3. Agenda re Meeting on WCD
 4. Establish working group Members
 5. Approve Plan to date
- ii. Historical Sandspit Signage
1. Attachments

 20201129 FIF Application.Consultation1 Summary

 20201129 FOAM Community Consultation

 20201129 FOAM SRRA re Historical Signs

2. See attached re Foam Advice
3. Establish working group Members
4. Work on how to achieve and budgeting

iii. Rural Bus Shelter

1. Establish working group Members
2. Work on how to achieve and budgeting

Rural Bus Shelter. Peter says he spoke to Total Span and they have one available. We have identified on Sandspit Road, near Beach Street, a place for a bus shelter. Students already stand there and wait for the bus. Greg says we have a grant for \$4000 and we could use that for any expenses we have regarding the bus shelter.

With Jan Monk resigning we need to have a person to meet with the Snells Beach Group. We need a liaison person. Nancy said she will go to see Jan and find out exactly what she did.

8. Civil Defense with Jan resigning, we need someone to take this up
9. Communication and Media- Stephen Channing-Pierce
10. Social Functions/Membership Margaret McCallum
 - i. Annual BBQ all on track
11. General Business
 - a. Letter of Support for FOAM FIF Application (see attached)
 - b. With Jan Monk resigning we are down to 8 Committee members, we need to recruit 2 new members

Conversation took place about the Sandspit Community Barbecue at the Holiday Park.

Cleaning products for barbecues. Nancy brought paper towels, Jif and oven cleaner to clean the barbecues.

Nancy brought a bottle of oil for the barbecues for the cooking of the meat.

Greg said people are happy to be volunteers but don't want to be on the committee. We are organizing the volunteers.

After some discussion with Margaret and Stephen, the Monarch Downs people were offered to join as individuals to the SRRRA. They were offered the \$12.50 special rate. Greg said we need to look at our boundaries that have originally been set up. We want to include people that are not included in the Snells Beach, Warkworth, or Matakana Ratepayers group.

Greg said the 20/21 Rodney Local Board Plan. Beth said there is a link to their Website for the Local Board. It identifies what their advocacy points are for the next 3 years. And now they're going into the Auckland Council's 10 Year Budget Period, those points go into that advocacy process. That comes up for

consultation between February and March , Beth is hoping people will express in volume their support of the Local Board's advocacy points. Beth said the Road Maintenance Budget is not enough and support will get roads sealed sooner. Beth said she is hoping that people will support, and she's hoping the SRRA will encourage people to support it, is the Road Maintenance. Beth says the Local Board gets abused over the status of the roads. She wants people to say – "the local board is correct, the road maintenance budget needs to be increased". Greg Sayers goes in on his own, he needs other councilors to support him. Auckland Transport says the budget they receive does not allow them to keep on top of the road maintenance. Currently they only do reactionary work, they cannot plan ahead. They need a budget that allows them to renew and maintain 12% of the roading network each year. Currently they're managing about 6% of the roading network. Beth says if we don't get this sorted the costs to repair roads will increase and then there will be massive rates rises. The Local Board says this needs to be a priority now. They say this is council's core business and this is what they need to be doing. Beth says we need to support Greg Sayers. She said there will be asset sales, but these are not easy, as there is not a lot the Council can sell that people want to buy. We all have to concentrate on the basics. 60% of the Councils revenue is non-rates. There are Airport Shares, Ports of Auckland, Stadiums, large concert venues. There are no international concerts, apart from America's Cup there are no large sporting events happening. The council has a huge income hole, a deficit in the budget, and one can only plug so much with staff cuts and salary reductions and cost cuts. Reality must be faced. The Council needs to look after the assets that they have.

Peter said that along Sandspit Road and Brick Bay Drive, after the drought, the filled areas in the roads have settled. Areas that are filled are dropping.

The Council is preparing its 10 year budget. When it comes out for consultation in February or March the Local Board is hoping there will be lots of submissions. They hope that people will support their advocacy points. They need it to be expressed in volume. The Roads Maintenance budget is not enough. The budget needs to be increased. Beth said the Local Board gets abused by the public over the state of the Roads. It always comes up as the number one priority. She hopes they will get deluged with submissions by the public.

The Mayor drafts a Budget. It comes up for consultation and then there's the feedback. Beth hopes people from Rodney will be saying the 'roads are a mess'. Hopefully they'll say to increase the Budget for Roding, the Roads are a mess. Auckland Transports engineers have told the Local Board the Budget they have does not allow them to keep on top of it. They only do reactionary work. They cannot plan ahead as they can't keep up. Currently they are only doing 6%. There will be a mess in the future. We will be faced with massive costs in the future. There will be rates rises like we have not seen before. The Mayor's proposal talks about Climate Emergency, and he's talking about putting money into Climate Change. Local Board says that's not imminent. Roding is Council's core business and that's what they should be dealing with. When Councillor Greg goes in he has to convince the other Councilors that a change needs to be made in the Mayor's Budget. Unless they see that's it's backed up by many people the change will not happen. The Mayor's Proposal is out now. He's proposing 5% rates increase this year, and 3% for the following 2 years. He's proposing to prioritize spending on the Climate Emergency. He's also proposing to divest property. While the borders are closed Council's budget is seriously decreased. The Council has a one-billion-dollar hole in the budget.

Beth is encouraging us to respond to the Mayor's Budget. Peter asked what happened to the 10 cent regional fuel tax.

David asked about submissions. What happens to them, they seem to go into a black hole. Beth said there is a website you can go to.

The one on tolling goes to the Minister of Transport. David asked if it is an effective measure. Beth said there are pages of submissions, that are submitted. Beth said they read them. Council staff read them. It takes weeks to read them. She said they appreciate people submitting. Rodney gets a great number of submissions and the Local Board uses these to back up their support.

Regarding the fuel tax – covid came along, rather than getting 7 or 8 million it got reduced to 1 million.

Greg says our e-news is a great way to promote submissions. We can say ‘this is what needs to be addressed’. We can guide people on how to make their submission. Beth says give a detailed response.

Greg says our next meeting is the first week of February. He said rather than having a meeting, we can communicate amongst ourselves.

Meeting closed 9:13 pm.

Next meeting first week of February.