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SANDSPIT RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting 7 Pm Tuesday Oct 6th, 2020 at the Sandspit Yacht Club


Present: Greg Doherty, Nancy Doherty, Margaret McCallum, Peter Deane, Warren Churches, Steven Channing Pearce, Jan Monk, David Astbury, Beth Houlbrooke Rodney Local Board.


1. Apologies - Ross Sutherland
2. Minutes of Last meeting (attached) Moved Margaret, 2nd Jan
3. Matters arising
 - i. Progress report on Xero Steve. Xero can give month by month reports. People can be divided up into the groups that they want to assist with. A list was given out with all the people on the database . A request was made to look at your neighbours and see if you can update the list. A conversation took place about the need to keep the database updated, especially if people die, move away or move into the area.
 - ii. Auckland Transport Peter Deane following up re Green Point. Peter lodged a complaint with AT and somebody will come out and talk to us. Everybody was pleased about that.
 - iii. Paper Road Walks. Greg is hoping we can organize some paper road walks of Creek Street, Glance Street and James Street. David Astbury said he was contacted by Martin Dancy from Greenways and they are wanting to have a meeting at the Yacht Club on the 20th of October with Alison Rowe. They are Puhoi to Maungawhai Walking, Cycling, Riding Tracks. He wanted to know about the paper road from McCallum Drive up to James Street. This group is keen to link Sandspit with the Snells Beach Walkway. This would mean being able to go up McCallum Drive


to James Street. Greg felt it would be good to be part of a greater group. Beth said they did a Greenways plan and worked with the Matakana Coast Trail Trust and worked on the Puhoi to Mangawhai. The Matakana Trail Trust is what Alison Rowe and Martin Danzy sit on. Beth said they have funded a lot of work with the Walking Access Commission and they should have access to Chris Charles from the Walking Access Commission. This group open up paper roads for walking on. They take care of the legal work that has to be done. And they take care of easements over private land with landowner agreement and to be able to progress the Greenways Plan. Beth says listen to what Martin has to say and know that it is backed up by the Greenways Plan. Beth says if you Google Rodney Greenways Plans, you'll find the plan for this area and the maps. They were done about 2015. There were meetings with the public where they were able to tell the Local Board where they liked to walk and horse ride. And where are the known walkways, and where are the paper roads, and where they go across private land there is a dotted line and it's up to the landowner. When properties are chopped up the Local Board gets to make a comment and refer to the Greenways Plan so they can get access through a certain area. Beth says generally developers like to include this as it enhances the development. David said there are many meetings that are being organized. The meetings are to be small and local.

4. Correspondence

Attachments

 20200907 Illegal Parking on the Spit

 20200925 Hana Aickin Conservation Advisor

 20200927 Waste Management and Carpark

Regards to illegal parking, a picture was given to SRRA of a vehicle with a trailer parking in the carpark. Auckland transport was contacted and said they would come and view it. If anyone views a vehicle violating parking rules phone 09 355 3553 and report the incident.

Hana Aickin, Conservation Advisor contacted us offering her assistance. She is the person who got us the Pest and Weed Brochure that was mailed out to the residents of Sandspit.

Discussion re Carpark to clarify SRRA Position on Future planning for RLB. The ratepayers do not want to see a further deterioration of the carpark. We are waiting for information from the Council as to what is going to happen with regards to Kawau Islanders who park there, and people who will be catching the ferry.

Greg attended a meeting with Auckland Council regarding the Carpark. As of September 30, the Sandspit Carpark has been given to the Auckland Council by Auckland Transport. It is now a free Carpark and the Carpark Custodian's contract is over. Apparently, there are 270 households on Kawau Island. Some carparks will be cordoned off the Kawau Islanders and for Kawau Cruisers. There are over 132 License holders on Kawau Island. The Local Board is working to manage the space. The Ferry people are concerned their customers will not be able to find parking. It has been said the house is quite dilapidated and is not up to standard to rent out. Auckland Council is trying to get everything sorted out by Labour Weekend. If the carpark fills up, the

parking will get transferred up Brick Bay Drive as it used to be. Auckland Council will be installing security cameras which will also monitor the new rubbish location within the carpark. Greg said Insite Security gave us reasonable prices. The carpark is a reserve and will need to be reclassified. Beth said there is a chance that the Carpark will need to be a Pay Parking place.

Beth said that the Local Board was doing a survey last summer. Then Covid came and the survey could not be completed. The Kawau Islanders received notice from Auckland Transport that the Carpark had been turned over to Auckland Council. Auckland Council is trying to manage the chaos that will erupt from having no managing authority.

Margaret said the Residents of Sandspit created the Carpark and then Auckland Council took it over. Auckland Transport manages the wharf and some of the parking out there. Panuku owns the dinghy storage lockers at the end of the Spit. Beth said often the Council ends up in ownership of a piece of land because the owners cannot afford to maintain the property. Beth says it is a patchwork quilt on the Spit. Beth said the Local Board is trying to get something in place to manage the potential upcoming chaos. Greg said he wouldn't like to see the fence removed from the house.

A discussion took place about having an event at the Marina Clubhouse for the posties. Dan said he can't talk to Steven until we go down to Level 1.

David asked about Mahurangi Matters interviewing Pam Eede. He was going to contact Pam and hasn't done it yet. Greg will follow up with the editor and see what is happening with regards to Pam being interviewed.

Greg moved the Correspondence be received; Warren 2nd

5. Treasurer's Report- Margaret McCallum Moved Margaret, 2nd Greg

6. Social Media Report- Margaret McCallum N/A

7. Parks & Reserves Reports

- i. Tracks- David Astbury. David said thanks for the group supporting the payment of the digger working on the track. He said the track is slippery and needs work on it. There will be some gravel put on the track in the near future.
- ii. Predators - Stephen Chaning-Pierce. The rabbit shooter has been off because of health and has been shooting from his ute. Last time he shot 7 rabbits and there were 10 en utero. Steve said he is getting lots of requests for rabbit culling but at this time nothing can be done about it. Steve said from our mailout there has been a great interest in predators and weeds. There is a Predator Workshop on the 15th of October. The fellow says he will run the workshop at Sandspit if we want him to do so. Steve has been in contact with the Good Nature people and we can get a 10% discount from them. He has been in contact with the people who produce Cut and Paste which is paste on gel used on weeds. We are not sure if we can get a better price from Auckland Council but he will investigate it. Steve said many people on their forms complained that neighbours are not looking after their weeds ie tobacco weed and asparagus weed.
- iii. Weeds- Peter Deane. He said there had been a concentration on gorse at Brick Bay Drive. Initially the council did some work. Peter is really pleased about the interest in being volunteers in dealing with weeds that were sent in after the recent mailout. He said residents love their loquat trees and they are lovingly

cared for by their owners. However, wood pigeons love them and carry the seeds into native bush. The seeds sprout easily. Margaret said moth vine is another weed that needs to be eliminated. They have big green seed heads and soon they will burst and their seeds will blow everywhere. Moth plants look similar to chokos. Steve said we need to eliminate this plant now. They multiply like crazy and the seeds can travel up to 30km in the wind. The seed heads should be sealed in the rubbish and not put in the compost.

iv. Mangrove Control- Greg Doherty

Low tide on Sunday Oct 11th is suitable for Mangrove culling.

Greg will sort out a date in November.

8. Civil Defense Report—Jan Monk. Jan did not go to the meeting as they had a limit of 10 people being allowed to attend the meeting due to lockdown.

9. Communication and Media- Stephen Channing-Pierce. Steve said we have increased the email addresses from 134 to 220. This will make communicating with residents easier. Steve had talked to Real Estate People about handing out welcome packs and they are willing to do so. He says the pack needs to be redesigned. The updated pack is offering a half price membership for this year as we are halfway into the year. Steve says the discount price is being well received. We've done the letter drop.

10. Social Functions/Membership Report Margaret McCallum

11. General Business

- Rename the Parks and Reserves Report to be more encompassing, for Example Landcare or Environmental Working Group. Greg said many people want to be involved in Weed and Pest Control. Greg said he thinks we should have volunteer groups for each area Pest Control, Weeds, Mangroves so that we know who is available. Greg said Landcare is a good name. Greg suggested we form more volunteer groups. Steven said it would be a good idea to have a "weed of the

month” and have working groups go after that plant. Greg said we need to encourage young people.

- 13 trees have been planted by Wharehine below the retaining wall.
- David suggested we write a letter to Auckland Transport stating what a great job the Wharehine with regards to the project.
- Greg said the new footpath is an integral part of the retaining wall and is incredibly strong.
- Greg said it would be a good idea if the weed control group could go and help older residents who are unable to manage their weeds, by removing noxious weeds from their properties. This would be done with the residents permission.
- Greg said Mike Smith said the over time there has been 300 rat stations placed. It used to be logged with Environmental Care with the Council. Greg was asking if we can access that information. David said many are disappearing in the forest areas. David says he looks after bait stations but doesn't report to anyone. Other people volunteer in the same way. He said they were put in by Rodney Council a long time ago. David says he has a map indicating where the bait stations are meant to be.
- Steven said he thought some bait stations weren't being attended to as he hadn't seen any sign of leaves being disturbed. David said you have to look inside to see.

Discussion: re action to take regarding responses from our Letter drop.

Overwhelmingly people want to know or be involved in Weed and Pest control. It seems the best way to move forward on this would be to form separate Weed and Pest Control Volunteer groups. Actions could include arranging and hosting information meetings and then proposing volunteer actions. Some elderly people may not have the ability to manage weeds on their own property, a Volunteer group could do this kind of thing in a working

bee. Steven said Weed Busting needs to be a concerted effort by a large group of people.

Incentives: Steven talked to Northern Waste about getting Green Bins for weeds. He proposed that Sandspit Residents get Green Bins free for 3 months, which means they can get their weeds removed and put them in the bin. Many people throw their weeds over their fence into their neighbours yard. He talked to Whangaripo about giving us the Substandard Eggs for the possum and rat traps. An egg can be substandard by being too small or past its used by date. Steven is busy constructing a Pest Newsletter to be emailed out. He has spoken to DOC about getting 50 or 60 copies of the Practical Guide to Trapping and making them available to residents. They can come and collect them.

Beth says the Local Council is funding Pest Free Co-ordinators for Rodney East. She says they have all the Pest Free Groups under that umbrella. Beth said she can get us all the support that we need. Beth says they fund the co-ordinator, the material that goes out, and the pest management material. They don't fund the traps. They want to make sure this area has coverage. Hanah Aitken is the council person for this area. Beth said to email Hanah, and to copy Beth in on the email. Beth said they have put funding into this years budget. They have co-ordinators in place to make sure that everyone has the support they need. They can help us to do a plan. There is Local Board Funding, Regional Funding. There is the Natural Environment part of the rates. The NE targeted rate money is part of the funds the Local Board uses.

Greg said that he, Steven and Peter met with Ngaire Williams of the Takatu Land Care. She is working with Auckland Council Regionally. They are looking at funding model where they will pay a person. Beth says the Local Boards project will work along side Land Care and fill in the gaps. Greg says we have a

fresh new incentive to deal with things that are affecting the landscape. Last year Pete put in an application for us to control weeds on Council land it got turned down. We're thinking if we have a Weed Control Group we can control the weeds. Beth said – 'to the extent that they will let you'. Many weeds are weed trees and a chainsaw is required to remove them. Woolly Nightshade and Privot. Greg said we'd be happy to have Treescape come in and do it. Greg said with the tree weeds, the engineers don't want the trees killed as the roots stabilize the bank.

Steve wants us to send out more emails about what we are doing so the public is aware. Jan and Greg said we do not want to send out too many emails. Steve said if we keep the emails short and have 2 or 3 topics they will. David said a concise summary of what our meeting is covering. Greg will teach Steven how to work MailChimp.

Steve said the Sandspit Logo needs to be modernized. The colour needs to be changed. It was said the design is okay, but the colour needs to be upgraded and Greg said put in words like "working for the community".

Regarding email addresses, the emails for the committee should remain the same. The secretary's email is sandspittra6@gmail.com. This prevents emails going to the wrong person.

Margaret and Nancy will organize the Christmas Barbecue at the Holiday Park. Nancy will go and have a talk with Brian and Vanessa about it.

Meeting Closed at 9pm.