

Green Timbers Heritage Society

Board of Directors Meeting
March 5, 2014
Mulberry Room, Surrey Nature Centre



All photos from the February 2014 snowfall

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Present: Ellen Edwards, chair; Susan Lehmann; Peter Maarsman; Jim Foulkes; Stephen McGlenn (SNAP); Don Schuetze, secretary. Ian McLean sent his regrets as he had to work, and Deanna Welters would be coming later at 8:15 pm.

Minutes from the January 8, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Peter Maarsman moved they be accepted as read, seconded by Susan Lehmann. Passed.

1. Communications:

Ellen and Jim went to a Fortis meeting on January 28 regarding planned piping upgrades. The area doesn't touch Green Timbers, but comes close to the Northwest corner. Fortis appeared aware of the environmental concerns. Ellen and Jim reiterated concern about Green Timbers possibly being used as a staging area for pipes or parking. These concerns were well received but there was no confirmation that Green Timbers will definitely not be used for staging area.

Camille Andrews, our SNAP coordinator at the City is leaving Surrey for Saanich. Nadia Chan will return as SNAP coordinator.



Member Angus Stuart had spoken to some tree fallers assessing the forest area behind the School District building at the Southwest corner of the forest. As tree-cutting for a parking lot is planned, he brought this to Ellen and Jim's attention. Neal Aven advised this area belongs to the School District. The public contact person is Kerry Magnus 604-595-5185. This area was given to the School Board in 1968 and is bounded by 92 Avenue to the South, 96 Avenue to the North and 140 Street to the West. The forest here includes several paths and a creek. There are currently 15.1 acres of parking next to the existing building, and approximately 11.6 acres of trees that could potentially be cut down. Jim Foulkes sent an email to Councillors Villeneuve and Rasode February 25 expressing concern but hadn't received a response. If we can get access to any tree cutting permit we'll have a better idea of what is planned. Susan said she would add this new development to the Green Timbers Urban Forest Advisory Committee meeting Thursday March 6.

The Malcolm Aspeslet donation of \$1,000 in memory of his late wife: Mr. Aspeslet told Ellen he didn't have any specific plans for the bequest. He wanted to give it on behalf of his wife as they had enjoyed the trails so much over the years.

Ellen has sent a thank you card to Owen Croy for the \$5000 film money from last Fall.

2. Lehmann Grove Report:

Susan Lehmann said this was proceeding nicely. The plan is to replace the existing three story boards under the kiosk and update them at the same time the fourth story board is added. Ellen to send photos of Wady to Colleen to choose for storyboard.

A grand opening is being planned for May/June. Discussion followed on inviting environmental partners and having a forestry-related theme for the reception.

3. Financial Report:

Jim Foulkes has almost finished the year-end financials. A local bookkeeper Leroy Mickelson has looked them over and said they've been well done. He will be helping with the books every month or quarter. Cityfone has issued a refund of \$424.46 re the overcharge stemming from last year. The general account has \$5,583.69; the gaming account \$374.65; the SNAP account \$12,006.91. Jim to meet March 31 deadline for Charitable Org Tax Files.



Moved by Don Schuetze, seconded by Susan Lehman to issue a cheque to Jim Foulkes for \$1,962.59 for expenses incurred for WCB and address change. Passed.

Moved by Jim Foulkes and seconded by Don Schuetze to issue a cheque to Ellen Edwards for \$112.39 to cover printing, postage and map copying expenses. Passed.

The President acknowledged the Treasurer for many hours of bookkeeping duties, for his accuracy and thoroughness.

4. SNAP report:

Stephen McGlenn said the grants for the coming year were either submitted or well on their way to completion. Grants being asked for this year include the Canada Summer Jobs Grant; the Evergreen Walmart Grant for a pilot garden project at the Centre; and VanCity for a restoration project at Blackie Spit. Stephen pointed out that the B.C. Gaming Grants have been reopened and we're eligible. These can be a considerable size, enough for a major project. It was suggested we should apply and use the grant to buy the parking lot from the School District. Laughs all around.

There was some discussion about using a professional fund-raiser. Peter Maarsman said using one could jeopardize our ability to get grants from the government.

SNAP plans for 2014 include hiring 9-10 people (plus Stephen) who will be divided into two groups: the habitat restoration team and the outreach team. Stephen has received 150 applications!

A SNAP training manual is in the works to codify messaging, and the SNAP website is being updated.

5. Strategic planning:

As part of his program at UBC Stephen McGlenn has an opportunity to guide the GTHS through a strategic planning program. If the Society is interested this would start in September and be completed in December.

6. Green Timbers Urban Forest Advisory Committee:

The meeting is Thursday, March 6. Susan Lehman and Deanna Welters will attend. Top of mind will be the City's plans to widen Fraser Highway and the newly discovered tree-cutting on the Southeast corner.

7. Communications update:

GTHS email messages can now be sent to members through an email service, MailChimp, allowing better metrics and usability. The February newsletter was sent using this service. Mailouts were sent in January (2013 AGM and SNAP Report) and February (Winter Newspaper and January Minutes). The President acknowledged the Communications Coordinator (Don Schuetze) for his efficiency, assistance, and current updates.

Our membership list has been consolidated into one database. This allows us to segment messages for membership renewals, or extract mail addresses for members without email addresses.

A challenge to be addressed is getting updates quickly to the website and onto the Facebook page.

8. City Events:

GTHS is booked for two events: Party for the Planet: April 26; World Ocean Day: June 8.

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. Susan is in charge of supplies and staffing.

9. The Golden Shovel:

Neal Aven has the shovel "in a safe spot". Unfortunately, there are no City funds available to create a display. Jim Foulkes suggested we find a spot and take care of it. Ellen to follow up.

10. Round table discussion:

Discussions throughout the evening covered a wide variety of topics. Ideas included: creating an "environmental crusader" program for young people who want to do something in their own backyards, or on their initiative; samples of what are invasive species, what do they look like; re-introducing the interpretive walks; using newspaper articles and posters to garner support of the public; and polling people to canvas opinions on what looks to be a continual whittling away of the forest. Susan to create a polling page at the GTHS booths this Springtime. Approved.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be May 7, 2014 with Ian McLean as chair. Jim gives his advance regrets. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.