



Signs of Spring in Green Timbers

Green Timbers Heritage Society

March 12, 2015 meeting

Surrey Nature Centre, 7:05pm

Jim, Susan, Ellen, Don, Stephen, Nadia Chan attending. Deanna gave regrets.

Agenda and minutes from Feb 4, 2015 were read. Moved by Jim and seconded by Don the minutes be approved as read. Passed.

Douglas Fir Beetle problems:

Nadia gave presentation on the Douglas Fir bark beetle (*Dendroctonus pseudotsugae*), a natural beetle which isn't normally a concern, but the trees in between 144-148 between 96 and 92 Ave. are a bit stressed out this time of year because of the high water level. There are lots in Sunnyside Acres too because of root rot.

There's a treatment with pheromones, in "little bubble things". It fools the bugs into thinking the trees are already full of bugs. It's an antiaggregate pheromone. The beetles are 4.4-7mm. This treatment has been done at Sunnyside twice, with success, and although it discourages the beetles, it doesn't appear to discourage people.

The beetles are spreading to healthy trees.

It attacks the Douglas Fir, and sometimes Larch, but we don't have those here. The City would like to get the pheromones out in the next few weeks. Nadia has ordered 30 baits that will be enough for Sunnyside and Green Timbers.

Jim thinks the beetles are rampant: many of the trees he's seen lately have lots of woodpecker holes and running sap.

Nadia said we'll never get rid of them, but we can control them.

Nadia proposed treating the areas they know have them, and then they'll check out where Jim thought there might be more. The plastic bubble containers would be removed in the Fall, and the bugs checked next year.

According to the BC Ministry of Forests' brochure, downed Douglas Fir debris is a haven for the beetles, and so should not be left on the forest floor.

After some discussion GTHS advocates that in the future that when contractors remove Douglas Fir trees they must remove the tree and biologically destroy it as per the BC Ministry of Forests recommendations.

Don and Ellen will draft something and send it to Owen.

Financial Report:

In our VanCity (SNAP) accounts we have \$567.07 and \$19,068.76

In our Prospera account we have \$457.08, plus about \$12,000 in term deposits; plus another \$10,000 in the Gaming account that's already earmarked for a SNAP project.

Excise tax refund of \$21.92 was received. The president will investigate as he suspects the refund should be closer to \$435.16.

Leroy Mickelson, our accountant, has prepared our T3010 return and looked at our books. Jim mailed it March 9, 2015.

Historically, the Sunnyside Acres would send GTHS \$1000 per year for SNAP. This was because they had a benevolent sponsor. That sponsor is no longer donating to Sunnyside.

Jim moved we donate Sunnyside Acres \$1,000 in acknowledgement of past support. Susan seconded. Passed.

Jim moved, Ellen seconded that GTHS reimburse Susan for the new easel for \$100.30.

Don moved, Jim seconded that GTHS reimburse Ellen for printing and mailing costs for 60.60. Passed.

Jim moved, Susan seconded, approval of financial report. Passed.

Marketing / Website:

Don will contact Michael for an itemized breakdown for his proposal. His proposal was around \$900 for an upgrade and two years maintenance.

Membership:

Some membership renewals have come in since our last meeting.

Fraser Highway widening:

Don recapped the latest meeting with Engineering, on March 5th. We had gone into the meeting anticipating fighting over the proposed land swap. Instead the City wanted to hear the concerns we had collected from our members and interested members of the public.

We also have a clearer idea of the process now. Engineering would like to address the concerns raised. They'll then commission a plan which they'll present to Council. There will then be hearings before any widening takes place.

Parking at 100th Ave:

Linda Prai wrote a letter to Owen Croy, and we were copied in, about tickets on cars parked on 100th. There is no signage on the road about no parking, and yet cars overflowing from the parking lot were being ticketed. There was a suggestion at our meeting that there could be signage advertising the additional parking at the Nature Centre.

Jim mentioned that at the previous GT Advisory Committee, Neal had talked about fixing the parking lot at 100th. They had agreed to meet at the lot and look at the crosswalk on Green Timbers Way too. They found about seven extra spaces inside and another four outside with ideas like painting lines, straightening swails, re-arranging boulders, etc.

Jim thought it came to a positive conclusion.

Jim would like a copy of Neal's report about the parking meeting with input of the Advisory Committee to Owen Croy.

Crosswalk at Green Timbers Way close to 96 Ave discussion:

The City is concerned that cars coming from 96 Ave might hit kids. The proposed plan was to reroute the path to the lake to the corner of Green Timbers Way and 96 Ave. The alternative is to put up a "kids crossing" sign.



SNAP 2015 Updates (Stephen):

The hiring process is almost finished. There were over 200 applicants, an indicator that we are popular and well-known. Applicants came from across Canada. Stephen interviewed 21 or 22 students. All the positions are pretty much filled, he's just waiting for one response. Six people will be on habitat restoration, five on environmental outreach.

SNAP will start May 4, with the team leaders. The SNAP welcome breakfast will be around May 13, with the partner park tours around that time too.

Stephen's work is moving into work planning and grant applications, including one to MEC for an advocacy and awareness grant. He's proposing a Green Timbers Lake Stewardship Project: litter picking, removing invasives, setting up tents for education and removing fish hooks.

Other work in GT: canvassing in the north section educating the public about peeling bark, dumping etc.

SNAP's budget will be around \$220,000, depending on what grants come through. We'll find out in April. This is SNAP's 15th year, so something will be planned, perhaps a BBQ at the lake with MPs, MLAs etc. SHARP, a similar program, is celebrating its 20th year. They're updating their logo, and there's an opportunity to update SNAP's logo too.

Jim pointed out there was lots of ivy at Surrey Central Cemetery that could be removed, but that recommendation should come from the Surrey Historical Society.

Party for the Planet (Susan):

April 25, 10-4 at Surrey Centre. Don will help set up. Colleen was going to get a big photo/map. Jim will call Owen about getting a big map too.

Other:

Statue: Susan had been in touch with an artist in Abbotsford who works in steel. Deanna and Susan will work at getting out there.

Shovel plaque design: Colleen was going to ask the museum and archives for permission; but she's now out of the country.

Surrey Stories Page: Jim will do something on the erratic behind the RCMP building.

Centennial Cemetery tree: it was 140 years old and 1.5 m wide when cut down. It was a Douglas Fir. Watch out for beetles!

There's lots of garbage in GT. This needs to be reported. There were five fire spots, possibly for burning the plastic off wire.

The old power lines have been removed from by the Garry Oaks.

Our next meeting will be April 9

Finished 10:10 pm