



# **Green Timbers Heritage Society Board Meeting 9 April 2015, 7 PM**

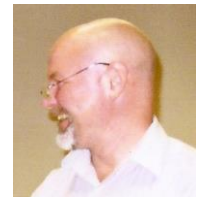


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**Welcome by Chair, Don Schuetze – 7 PM** to Jim Foulkes, Peter Maarsman, Stephen McGlenn, Susan Lehmann and Ellen Edwards (Minute taker). Absent: Deanna Welters.

**Agenda/ Minutes from March 12** – Don’s thorough Summary of all activities and events was mailed online or by post to all members. Major topics were the Fir Beetle, Fraser Hwy Widening, and SNAP Proposals and Budgets. Don/Ellen/Agenda and Minutes approved.

**Communications: Marketing/Membership/Website** – Don reported expected Website 2015 Fees - \$900 - for Update and Renewal. We send out messages regularly to 125, 68 are current members. We had 1200 website visitors last month, 1/3 from mobile devices. Don and Michael Mitov will be re-designing the Website during April. This will improve marketing, and membership.



**Financial Report** – Our 2014 Tax Return has been submitted. All Financial Records and Statements are in order, thanks to Jim and his countless hours of mathematical perfection. Don will now assume responsibility for our finances, which will mainly focus on SNAP funding and expenses.

**SNAP Report – Stephen McGlenn** – SNAP Coordinator, reported on the new Parks office facility on 66<sup>th</sup>, which we must visit! Funding includes a maximum of \$160,000 in advances from the City, commencing with \$50,000 to GTHS as “Contractor.” Stephen submitted Grant Applications totaling \$130,000. He plans to hire 10 post-sec students + 2 high school volunteers, received 200 applications, and interviewed 22. We await confirmation of 4 Canada Summer Jobs proposals and other funding, then we hire. One week of training follows, then work in the forests with two teams: habitat restoration and environmental research. A SNAP Welcome Breakfast is planned for May 13. Two trucks will be contracted and leased from ZeeMac on May 4, Day 1. Don and Stephen will meet there early AM with two student truck drivers.



**Environmental Issues Updates – Jim Foulkes** – GTHS President, kept aware of current issues, and participated in many meetings this past month: **A Kinder Morgan Pipeline Protest Group** met at Whalley SFU, with SFU Students, First Nations Reps, and passionate environmentalists opposing the pipeline for many reasons. **SEP (Surrey Environmental Partners)** met and had much valid discussion on **Fraser Hwy Widening**, as did the **GTUFAC (Green Timbers Urban Forest Advisory Committee)**, chaired by Neal Aven. City Engineering presented the proposed 42 meter wide highway/ transit/walkway/cycle path plans. Jim expressed dismay that the heritage committee had raised no objection, despite the current view having heritage status, the presence of markers from the original Pacific Highway, etc. Discussion ensued on the continued encroachment of roadways on the



forest, especially since there had been agreements in place 10 years ago for a maximum of four lanes. Ways to keep this transportation corridor within the agreed limit were brought up: put in Light Rail, but keep traffic to two lanes; put Light Rail on another route; if the goal is to decrease reliance on automobiles, the roads shouldn't be expanded."



**Fraser Highway Widening** – In March, Jim and Don attended Updates with City Transp/Eng Dept, we gathered opinions from our members and forwarded them to the City, and we kept in constant contact. On April 8, we rec'd a detailed letter from Jaime Boan, Manager of Transportation, affirming their goals re the widening project, and promise "a full tree survey to maximize

opportunity for preservation of higher quality trees." He repeats the redefining of the area needed for roads "gives us back" 6.9 acres. GTHS and City Transp have agreed to maintain our contacts and collegial relationship. We feel a public meeting and referendum on the widening should be called, as well as the current transit vote. **Transit Vote** – We urge everyone to have an opinion and vote.

**Parking on 100 Ave** – Jim met with Neal Aven, following reports of ticketing of cars parked on 100 Avenue when the parking lot was full. They walked around the existing parking lot and noted 7 more possible spots.

**Douglas Fir Beetle** – Thank you, Don, for writing a letter to Parks about the need for downed firs to be removed to lessen the beetle problem. Let's follow up on the pheromones as a deterrent strategy.



**Surrey Cemetery: Huge Fir/ Ivy Removal** – Jim and Ellen shall both contact Owen Croy about their dismay at the healthy Douglas Fir sawn down, labeled a risk problem. It was over 100 yrs old. Also, let us request that the ivy on the tall Cemetery trees be removed by the SNAP crew.



## Project Updates

**GTHS Booth** – Susan and Don will set up and man our Booth for

Kwantlen Park Planting Day – April 22, Party for the Planet – April 25 (City Hall), Painted Turtle Day in May (GT Lake), World Ocean Day – June 7 – at Blackie Spit, and at Burns Bog's Nature Festival in October.

**Yale Road Statue** – Susan to contact Sculptors re costs.

**Shovel and Plaque** – Placement still unsettled. Jim to pick up shovel from Neal's office. Helmar's son gave a photo of Helmar receiving the golden shovel as an award for his long service at the GT Nursery.

**Surrey's Stories Page** – Don to write a page on the Douglas Fir Beetle! Due by April 24.

**Fire spots** in the Forest – Parks and Police are already involved.

**Sunnyside AGM Invitation** – Susan/Jim/Ellen to represent GTHS – 7 PM on April 29.

**Other** - Ellen and Don continue to keep the membership updated with mailouts of GTHS and City Activities, Volunteer Opps, Courses of Interest, Environmental Meetings. Meeting Adjourned at 10 PM.

**Next Meeting – May 21, 7 PM.** Firstly, we follow Jim to the Erratic Boulder in the Forest.