

Green Timbers Heritage Society

Annual General Meeting

November 25, 2015

ABC Restaurant, Fleetwood, Surrey BC

The meeting started at 6:45 pm with introductions:

Travis Evans

Jason Craik

Susan Lehmann

Deanna Welters

Tessa Perkins

George Zaklan

Evelyn Zaklan

Robert Carron

Sandra Charron

Don Schuetze

Gerry Berteluk

Bill Potma

Jim Foulkes

Ellen Edwards

Peter Maarsman

Also present was Nadia Chan, from Surrey Parks

Susan moved, seconded by Travis to adopt the agenda for this meeting. Passed.

Jim moved, Jason seconded, to accept the AGM minutes from 2014. Passed.

Don Schuetze gave membership, communications and financial reports.

Don moved, Robert seconded, to accept the financial statement. Passed.

Reports:

Membership

We currently have 75 paid-up members. Coming due:

2015: 21

2016: 18

2017: 7

2018: 13

2019 and beyond: 10

Communications

Communications struggled in 2015 to keep up with the needs of the organization. There are a few positives.

Greentimbers.ca

The website was redeveloped into a mobile-friendly WordPress-based site. The structure was revamped to not only allow the deep informational dives of the previous site but also keep current issues easily accessible.

The website can be used as a convenient intermediary between meeting minutes, where issues are discussed, postings about those issues, and pushing that information onto members and subscribers to the email program.

Email program

The email program of sending information to not only GTHS members but also interested members of the general public continued in 2015, albeit at a slower scale than in 2014. There are currently 136 email subscribers.

Facebook

Facebook remains underutilized at present. There are 53 likes at present.

Media mentions

The City's announced plan to widen Fraser Highway generated a fair bit of press coverage in the local papers, on TV and radio. Here are a few links:

The nine-page Corporate Report from Engineering and Parks to City Council is here:

http://www.surrey.ca/bylawsandcouncillibrary/CR_2015-R085.pdf

Here are a few articles online:

From the

CBC: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/surrey-to-cut-down-hundreds-of-green-timbers-trees-to-make-way-for-lrt-1.3089323>

The Surrey Leader: [Protecting Paradise: http://www.surreyleader.com/news/306164021.html](http://www.surreyleader.com/news/306164021.html)

The Surrey

Now: <http://www.thenewspaper.com/news/unknown-number-of-trees-in-green-timbers-will-fall-to-make-way-for-lrt-in-surrey-1.1957484> (on the home page this article is next to a story about Delta planting 1,500 trees).

The Surrey

Now: <http://www.thenewspaper.com/news/our-view-trees-make-news-in-surrey-and-delta-for-a-reason-1.1957494>

News1130: <http://www.news1130.com/2015/06/04/heritage-group-members-cringe-at-marked-trees-in-green-timbers/>

Global

TV: <http://globalnews.ca/news/2039593/city-of-surrey-to-cut-down-hundreds-of-trees-in-green-timbers-park/>

Nadia Chan

Nadia Chan, manager of parks for the City of Surrey, gave a presentation on what SNAP accomplished this past year.

It was an extraordinary year for SNAP, its 15th anniversary. Stephen McGlenn left halfway through the year for a new job opportunity. He was sorely missed, but everyone stepped up to take over responsibilities to keep it running smoothly. There were 12 employees, plus volunteers. Approximately 30% of their time was spent in Green Timbers. As in past years the group was divided into an outreach team and a habitat restoration team.

Nadia Chan also gave a presentation on the forest fire that happened in Green Timbers on August 27, 2015. This was in the area between Fraser Highway and the Greenway. It was technically challenging to get to and put out. It was a joint effort of the fire and parks departments. It affected 760 square meters and about 22 trees. The cause is unknown.

Nadia offered to lead a field trip to the site.

President's report

Jim Foulkes, president, presented highlights of 2015. He thanked Don and Ellen for administrative help. He mentioned the media contacts he, Susan and Deanna were involved with.

The phrase "in perpetuity" from the original setting aside of the forest has evolved into a buzzword. The original dedication of one square mile has been eroded and is still under threat. Even with the 1989 referendum the public saw and understood one thing from the wording, but it's empty forest and no one is speaking for it, except this society and a few neighbours. Even the City seems to be actively working at this erosion.

It's only in the fine print of the bylaw protecting the forest that a 40-meter right-of-way for roads is stated. The plans for the road widenings weren't done until nine years after the bylaw. This wasn't the intention of the public, nor was widening the highway from 6.5 meters to 40 meters.

For 20 years the City promised to close 144, but in 2015 put in a traffic light at Fraser Highway, increasing traffic.

They have contracted out to design a widened highway 9-lanes wide.

Green Timbers faces a new challenge: a large part is threatened by this proposed highway widening. New members and rejuvenated old members need to contact City Council and express our vision for our own, for Surrey's own park, our own Stanley Park.

Events report

Susan Lehmann summarized the GTHS participation at five events in 2015: Planting Days at Kwantlen and Paradise parks, Ocean Day at Crescent Beach, Environmental Extravaganza at City Hall and Painted Turtles at Green Timbers.

At all events the maps of the proposed highway widening was shown. The main purpose of attending these events is raising awareness. A lot of booth visitors were not aware of the forest's existence. Trails are the biggest draw.

Recognitions

Ellen presented two plaques of recognition: one to Peter Maarsman for 20 years of being on the board of the GTHS, being president for 14 years, and for starting SNAP. The other plaque for for Jim Foulkes, director for at least five years, and president this past year.

Peter gave a short speech recognizing Ellen's many contributions, including organizing all our meetings.

Election of directors

Seven members stood for election to the board of directors for 2016:

Susan Lehmann
Deanna Welters
Don Schuetze
Ellen Edwards
Tessa Perkins
Travis Evans
Jason Craik

Jim moved, and Robert seconded that we elect the seven members to the board of directors for 2016 by process of acclamation. Passed.

Duties will be assigned at our next meeting January 14, 2016.

Ellen read a humorous letter about a beaver dam and bureaucracy.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.