



Green Timbers Heritage Society Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2019
Surrey Nature Centre | 14225 Green Timbers Way, Surrey, BC



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January 1 - March 10, 2019

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In Attendance:

- Don Schuetze, Nathan Evans, Bill Potma, Amar Virk, Jim Foulkes, Shenae Borschneck, Robyn-Mae Deang and Dean Barbour from the Fleetwood BIA, Bree Berman, Fleetwood Community Association

Regrets:

- Deanna Welters,

Meeting Called to Order:

- 6:43 pm

Approval of minutes from January 8, 2018.

Moved by Nathan, Accepted.

Special discussion with the Fleetwood BIA and the Fleetwood Community Association:

GTHS welcomed Dean Barbour, Executive Director, and Robyn-Mae Deang of the Fleetwood BIA, and Bree Berman, President of the Fleetwood Community Association.

They are working on a heritage project on the Two EEs site which includes a "gateway" welcoming people to Fleetwood from the east. Some exploration to see if there is an opportunity to work together to "book end" Fleetwood with Green Timbers. Other ideas for the site include a large community garden, cenotaph, event facility, sports facility. The goal is to make it a placemaking centrepoint. An open house is planned for the middle of April.

The new proposed rapid transit project down Fraser Highway was also discussed.

The boundaries of Fleetwood are somewhat fluid, based on history, electoral boundaries and custom. The Community Association sees their area of interest as ranging from from 148 to 176, and 96 to 76.

See fleetwoodvoice.ca for information, videos etc

Reports

SNAP

Please join me in welcoming Shenae Borschneck as our new coordinator. Shenae was a team leader for the last two years, so she's well-acquainted with the program. Shenae has a lot of energy and it will be exciting to see how she helps the program evolve!

Zeeman (our truck supplier) feels we still owe them some money from last year for a damaged door. Nathan Evans and Shenae will follow up.

Team leader positions posted. Interviews done, close to hiring.

FINANCIAL

GTHS operating cash account = 12k

GTHS term deposit = 7k, making \$4 interest per month (so little!)

SNAP operating has 28k

GTUFAC

Report from Bill Potma for the meeting January 14, 2019:

There still are active beavers, maybe 5 or so in the lake or the marsh. Ken Crosby of the City of Surrey spoke about this as an agenda item. They allow them to co-exist if the numbers are low. The main concern is when the beavers start creating dams and when the population grows. The staff keeps an eye on this and gets advice from others.

I was able to present my sketch of the Entrance Gate for the trail entrance at 140 St and 100 Ave. They will consider this and liked the concept. They may wait till all the construction of 100 Ave is completed. I had suggested "Green Timbers Urban Forest" on the sign, but they feel that "Green Timbers Park" is the correct name.

The people present were Rob Landucci, Ken Crosby, Liz Walker, Betty Hall and Bill Potma. I declined on positions like Chair person, vice Chair and Secretary.

Watermain along 148 Street

Robin and Ken from the City and Vincent and Steve from Metro Vancouver met up with the GTUFAC on Wed, Feb 20 to go over the update on the Whalley Main -- the new water pipe running down 148th Street on the Eastern edge of Green Timbers. Somehow Don was invited too.

Link: <http://www.metrovancouver.org/Search/Pages/results.aspx?k=148%20Street>

Lots of PDFs of various reports and whatnot there.

There are a few things of note:

1. the project has been modified so the pipe will now go down the middle of the road, instead of along the forest edge. This means only 34 trees will need to be cut down, instead of the original estimate of 157. Major concessions on Metro Vancouver's part. Remember this is all happening within the existing road allowance, so the trees not cut down are still in the roadway.
2. when we first met about this last year the engineering department was going to take advantage of the road being dug up to expand 148th Street to four lanes and bring it up to current standards, ie with sidewalks etc. That is not happening now. I don't know why. The upshot is we won't have an opportunity to have them develop a North/South trail parallel to 148 Street.
3. Metro Vancouver has been consulting with all sorts of people about how to NOT damage Green Timbers. This does mean that the 34 trees to be cut down will go down in early March, before the birds start nesting.

Update: Jim attended the construction meeting and saved a few shrubs, and possible the vine maples as well. Trees were cut Monday March 11, or Tuesday March 12.

WEB

February performance for your website vs. previous month

Users: 617, Increase 0.65%

Sessions: 677, Decrease 3.01%

Average Session Duration: 00:47

Top pages visited:

1. home pages	174	17.43%		
2. /maps-of-trails/	91	9.12%		
3. /vegetation-wildlife/vegetation/coniferous-trees/western-hemlock/	66	6.61%		
4. /vegetation-wildlife/	33	3.31%		
5. /vegetation-wildlife/vegetation/ferns/bracken-fern/	33	3.31%		
6. /history/historical-background/	31	3.11%		

Current projects, events and issues to be discussed

Archiving digitization

Project continues on a monthly basis. So far 1968 - 2000 are done. Searchable, OCR'd PDFs are in the team drive. The working plan is (so far) to get them onto our website and also to the Surrey Archives. Nathan, Don and Amar last met in January. It's a bit of a slog, but progress is being made.

GSuite for non-profits

Amar, Nathan and Don have applied for and received a license for GSuite for non-profits. This gives us a better platform for collaboration, storing materials and presenting a better image to the public. I've created accounts for everyone, and will -- eventually -- go over how everyone can log in. Using this login will give everyone a "greentimbers.ca" email address and access to group accounts. It should allow better collaboration and set us up for better organizational growth.

Delegation to council project

Folder in Google Drive under "Delegation"

(<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Z6GgsrEw8BG1I2u063E4To125cssGp3v?usp=sharing>)

Welcome letter to Council

One-page info page, plus a personalized "congrats" message was sent in early January. No requests from the Mayor for a tour yet!

Susan's will

Deanna was going to try to follow up on this.

Museum expansion: GT exhibit (?)

Deanna was going to follow up on this

Surrey Nature Centre plaza

There is a plan

Environmental Extravaganza

How to participate? Green Timbers Day (like last year)?

Nature booklet

To do: Need to reach out to the Arts and Heritage to see if we can get an extension

Meeting Adjourned:

- 8:35 pm
- Next meeting Tuesday April 9, 2019

Appendix 2: News Mentions February, 2019

February

Heritage Surrey launches time-lapse mapping tool (February 21, 2019)

It matches local historical images to modern-day locations

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A preview on the website shows a picture of Old Yale Road through Green Timbers in 1913, next to a photo of the same location – now called Fraser Highway....

<https://www.surreynowleader.com/community/heritage-surrey-launches-time-lapse-mapping-tool/>

The dog-lover's guide to life in North Surrey (February 24, 2019)

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With so many parks to choose from in Surrey, it's almost impossible to pick a favourite — but if we absolutely had to, it would be Green Timbers Park. (Sorry, not sorry.) One of Surrey's largest parks, with over 452 acres of wetlands, serene lakes, meadows, and nature trails to explore, it's a popular place for dog-lovers to spend the day with their pups. While it's not an off-leash dog park, the huge park offers many trails and areas for you and your dog to enjoy together.

In the heart of the park, you'll find Green Timbers Lake, which is teeming with rainbow trout — a popular destination for fishing. That's right, fishing. Right in the middle of the city! While you're here, please help take care of the park's sensitive habitats by keeping your dogs on the trail and out of the lake.

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/north-surrey-dog-lovers-guide-rennie-centra-2019>

Surrey councillor expects 200 more units for homeless to be 'all over city' (February 27, 2019)

BC Housing has selected one site for 38 of 250 promised supportive homes set to replace 160 temporary units

Meantime, Locke said construction is set to start soon on a transitional housing project near Green Timbers Urban Forest. Likely, once snow clears, she added.

"All the pieces have been put together. The city has passed it at fourth reading, BC Housing is ready to go, Fraser Health is on board, everybody's ready. Mother Nature is in the way right now," said Locke.

The project, on a 12-acre property at 14150 Green Timbers Way, will see a six-storey facility built across from the Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre. According to BC Housing, it will have 96 supportive housing units and 27 "transitional accommodation units" which are described as "individual self-contained rooms," not group-style shelter beds.

<https://www.peacearchnews.com/news/surrey-councillor-expects-200-more-units-for-homeless-to-be-all-over-city/>

Appendix 3: Facebook postings

January 1 - March 10, 2019

I'm sure lichens aren't top-of-mind for most people when they think about old growth forests.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/scientists-view-old-growth-forests-through-lichens-to-understand-value-1.5049386?cmp=rss>

Scientists view old-growth forests through lichens to understand their value | CBC News

A stand of trees at KPU died. From the article:

"Most of all, Chisholm says he was astonished to see the sudden deterioration of the forest he was in charge of caring for.

"Within one season, these large trees were alive, and then they were deceased," he says. "For us, when you look at it, we have to look first at life and safety. With the wind storms and all that, we needed to take these trees down."

The Forest on KPU's Surrey Campus is Dying

<http://runnermag.ca/2019/03/the-forest-on-kpus-surrey-campus-is-dying/>

Green Timbers Urban Forest > March update from the Heritage Society > water main, parking lots, and more

<https://mailchi.mp/0d0b86063bae/ki6xlqg4zj-3407469>

Surrey Nature Centre's plaza is getting redone

If you've ever tried to find a place to park by the Nature Centre on a nice weekend you'll understand the logic here. It looks to me like the idea is to unify the paved and unpaved parking lots and make the space in front of the Nature Centre less car-o-centric.

Interestingly, the area around the Centre isn't in the designated Urban Forest. It's part of the Green Timbers Park, a subtle distinction, but one worth noting.

A few trees (none of them part of the original planting) will be coming down:

- Five Black Cottonwoods (*Populus trichocarpa*) -- anyone with allergies will cheer over this one
- Two Red Alders (*Alnus rubra*)
- Two Western Red Cedars (*Thuja plicata*)

More trees will be going up later.

Coming down the pipe...

Metro Vancouver is upgrading an existing water pipe running North/South along 148 Street, on the Eastern edge of Green Timbers.

The Society has had a few meetings with them and the City and Metro Vancouver really have made an effort to minimize and reduce the effects this will have on the forest. For example, the pipe will run down the middle of the road instead of along the side (inside the road allowance). This also means fewer trees that are already in the road allowance being cut down.

To avoid disturbing birds during nesting the trees that do have to come down to build valve chambers (big rooms underground) will be removed in the next week or so.

Sad that trees have to come down? Absolutely. Is it being done sensitively, with consultation and awareness of effects? Yes. Is it damaging the forest or park? No.

Fact sheet on the project (PDF):

[http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/water/construction-maintenance/ConstructionProjectPublications/148StWaterMainFS_Sept2018.pdf#search="Whalley%20water%20main"](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/water/construction-maintenance/ConstructionProjectPublications/148StWaterMainFS_Sept2018.pdf#search=)

Green Timbers tops the list as best place to walk your dog in Surrey. Hopefully they are all on leashes and poops picked up!

The dog-lover's guide to life in North Surrey

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/north-surrey-dog-lovers-guide-rennie-centra-2019>

#greentimbers #greentimbersurbanforest #surreybc

Victoria is reshaping its urban forest by gradually replacing beloved flowering cherry trees with drought-resistant native trees. What do you think about that?

Victoria may lose cherry blossoms as city pushes ahead with tree management plan

<https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/victoria-may-lose-cherry-blossoms-as-city-pushes-ahead-with-tree-management-plan>

Looking back: The 2018 SNAP team, with partners, last spring at the start of the season. SNAP hires students for the summer for habitat restoration, outreach and tree maintenance. #greentimbers #greentimbersurbanforest #surreybc

Big lichen things on an old stump in the Green Timbers Urban Forest. #greentimbers

#greentimbersurbanforest #surreybc

Timeline Photos

The 2019 SNAP (Surrey's Natural Area Partnership) season is just around the corner. Job postings can be seen here:

<https://www.greentimbers.ca/job-postings-snap-program-team-leaders-2019/>

Deadline: February 19

Job postings: SNAP Program 2019

www.greentimbers.ca

PoCo poised to plant 350 more trees a year until 2060

"Dupont (a councillor) said PoCo needs to be a leader and "shift the culture that we take trees for granted... I think we need to educate the community to help them understand we want a livable city."

PoCo poised to plant 350 more trees a year until 2060

<https://www.tricitynews.com/news/poco-poised-to-plant-350-more-trees-a-year-until-2060-1.23609919>

Victoria's plan to cut down tree for bike lanes under fire

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/victoria-s-plan-to-cut-down-tree-for-bike-lanes-under-fire-1.4264510>

"The City of Victoria says the tree must come down to accommodate the introduction of bike lanes on Wharf Street and to improve the crosswalk in front of Victoria's Visitor Information Centre. "

Victoria's plan to cut down tree for bike lanes under fire

Feeling civic-minded? Love committees? Want to contribute?

Councillor Steven Pettigrew is the new chair of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee. The city is looking for people to serve on it.

From Steven: "We will also be accepting people on the committee who may not have a strong environmental background but may be strong in business or other areas. This way we can have a balanced committee with input from different views."

Here is the application. Please feel free to apply!

<https://www.surrey.ca/city-government/14149.aspx>

Worth sharing:

B.C. conservationists want protection on 'Canada's most magnificent' old-growth forest
<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/b-c-conservationists-want-protection-on-canadas-most-magnificent-old-growth-forest>

Perhaps they were in the way of someone's view:

Vandals target trees at Spanish Banks

<https://www.vancourier.com/news/vandals-target-trees-at-spanish-banks-1.23577563>

I neglected to share this earlier:

Green Timbers transitional housing project OK'd, but without shelter beds (December 6, 2018, Surrey Now-Leader)

An October planning document stated the project would include a '30-bed emergency shelter,' but BC Housing says it will only be transitional housing

Surrey's new city council has granted final approval for a transitional housing project near Green Timbers forest that's been in the works for years, although it will no longer include a shelter, as previously planned. The proposal, on a 12-acre property at 14150 Green Timbers Way, will see a six-storey facility built across from the Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre.

<https://www.surreynowleader.com/news/green-timbers-transitional-housing-project-okd-but-without-shelter-beds/>

A story that's both sad and interesting:

"Despite the region's booming logging industry (a staggering 99 percent of the old-growth Douglas firs in British Columbia have been cut down) a logger spared Big Lonely Doug from being felled in 2012."

Big Lonely Doug in Port Renfrew, British Columbia

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/big-lonely-doug>