



Green Timbers Heritage Society

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Online via Google Meet

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Meeting Called to Order:	1
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Financials:	1
New Business:	1
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BC Hydro meeting re: right-of-way upgrades	1
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Appendix 3: Facebook postings

May-June, 2020

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In Attendance:

Don Schuetze, Nathan Evans, Leana Kininmont

Regrets:

Bill Potma, Deanna Welters, Jim Foulkes, Amy Kim

Meeting Called to Order:

6:03 pm

Reports

Financials:

GENERAL ACCOUNT: \$11,378.78

Equity: \$5.00

Investment Savings Account: \$7,503.02

New Business:

Peter Maarsman death:

Peter passed away June 1. Card will be sent

BC Hydro meeting re: right-of-way upgrades

Notes from the Webex meeting May 28, organized by Lea Anne Sexton:

Structure Modification Project

Project purpose

- support Skytrain
- change overhead transmission lines
- four existing lines
- minimize changes for safe and reliability

Locations and designs

- crossing over FH, at greenway
 - steel monopoles, moved away from highway
 - removing two wood structures
 - some lines already underground will be replaced
- lines crossing FH at about 138, along Quibble Creek, to the West of GT

Project schedule

- initial design Spring 2020
- Final design winter 2020
- site preparation: winter 2020
- construction summer 2021-2022

comments:

- footprint for disturbance, ie vegetation that needs to be removed not known.
- anticipating brush removal in right-of-way, mostly blackberries, etc.
- can't say how many trees will be affected, along the perimeter
- want to keep this to a minimum, possibly side-limbing.
- trees that may have encroached into right-away or conductor profile.
- if species is appropriate, try to keep it as natural as possible if has to be modified or removed. Keeping logs onsite, etc.

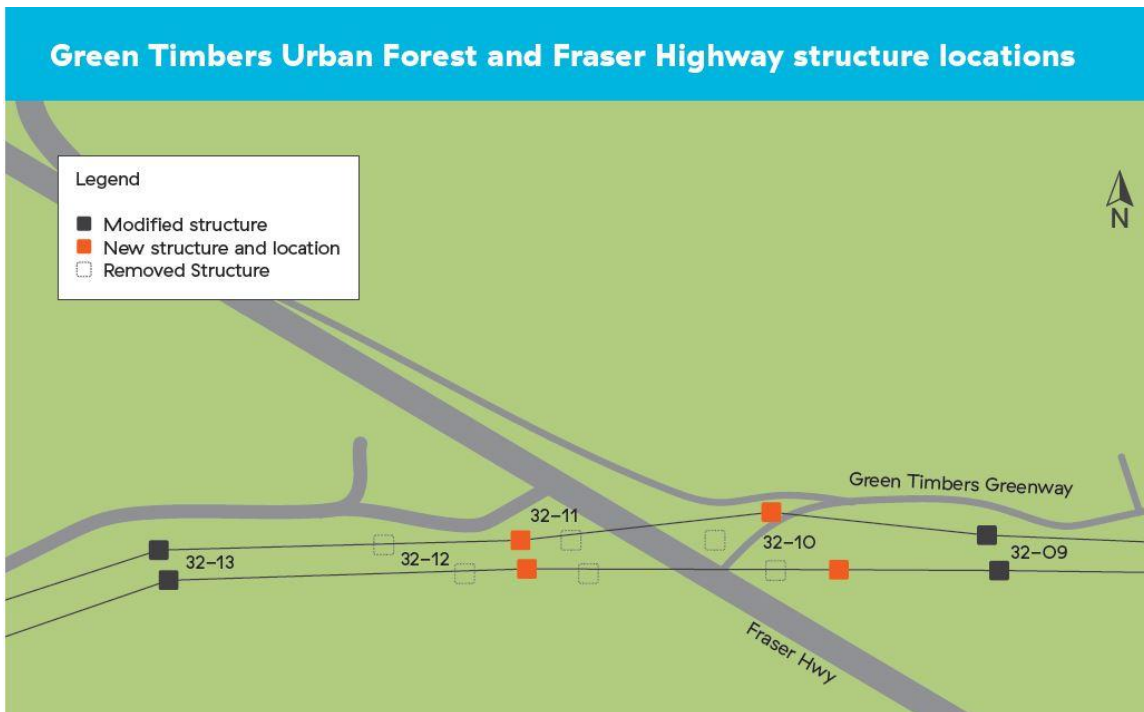
City to comment on design etc

SkyTrain doesn't require widening of the highway

City wants to widen, independently of this

projects@bchydro.com

604-623-4472



Email newsletter:

Didn't get one out for May. Got obsessed over picking a good picture. Thinking we need a photo editor or something similar. There are so many great shots out there; a lot of really talented photographers.

Getting occasional emails about trash:

Lots of people are using the park, what with the COVID-19 thing and all. Unfortunately, a lot of people are also pigs.

Heritage tree map:

From the WR/Surrey Naturalists email - one of their member's daughters created it for a GIS mapping class. Should get permission to post on our site.

Google Calendar updates:

Idea: put the City's ESAC meeting on it; any other groups that we should get for this?

Concept: for the monthly newsletter we could have a better calendar section. Mind you, not a lot going on now.

Painted turtle infestation:

Zevit, Pamela <Pamela.Zevit@surrey.ca>
Mon, Jun 1, 2:41 PM (10 days ago)
to donschuetze@greentimbers.ca, me, Robin, Kym, Leah

Don,

Part of my evolving role with the City is building on our biodiversity monitoring efforts, which includes species at risk as well as many other species indicators from the City's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. In April we launched our iNaturalist account through the City Nature Challenge event (thank you for sharing that info in your minutes). Investment in iNaturalist is already paying off. During the City Nature Challenge local naturalist Frank Lin noted the presence of what appeared to be a Midland Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta marginata*) at Green Timbers Lake (picture attached, turtle second from the right).

I have since had Kym Welstead, the Provincial Western Painted Turtle Recovery Team Chair review the photo and it is likely a Midland. The Midland subspecies is native to eastern Canada. Its illegal release here has resulted in hybridization with the remaining small populations of Western Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta belli* – Coastal pop.) found on the South Coast. Given the Endangered status and vulnerabilities of our remaining coastal Western Painted Turtles, interbreeding and the reduction in population fitness it creates needs to be addressed as part of recovery objectives. The process has been for the Province to remove any Midland Painted Turtles found in local ecosystems; this would include the one at GT lake.

We don't foresee anything happening right away as the Recovery Team is quite busy with other efforts, but we felt it was important to engage with the GTHS on this. Kym has indicated she would be happy to provide an overview about what addressing the Midland Painted Turtle at GT would entail.

Please feel free to share this email with your board and let me know if there is an interest in discussing further.

Pamela Zevit RPBio | Biodiversity Conservation Planner



Old Business:

PayPal problems with setup:

Need to see how to connect to Site; do they still want Nathan's personal info?

Cheque for insurance renewal to Foster Park Brothers

\$636; comes from SNAP budget; was the mixup resolved?

- Yes, cheque stub says \$636 but cheque itself written for \$190. No idea how that happened.

New memberships

Need ideas for premiums/incentives for memberships

Priority should be getting PayPal working

Meetups:

Started up again, starting Sat after this one.

Leana to look into promotional options with Meetup.

People occasionally ask about volunteering opportunities.

Garbage pickups should be part of any events. Include tongs, garbage bags and gloves.

Bark peeling issues north of 100th Ave:

Just wanted to close the loop on this file. I had inhouse staff post temporary informative signage about bark peeling/stripping in the northern area of Green Timbers on April 21st. No bark stripping or peeling has been observed since then. We'll continue to monitor the site whenever we are in the area.

Recently, there has been reports of someone piling up sticks/logs in the area now. These will be dispersed. Bylaws recently attended an encampment in the area, which has also now been vacated. We feel the log piling activity may be tied to the campers as it was close by and could very well be related to the bark peeling. Hard to say!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

Daniel Brouwer | Natural Areas Technician

Dog Poo bag containers:

Can the City set up poop bag containers at the parking lots?

Old Business followup:**To do list from earlier meetings**

- Green Timbers on Wikipedia
- using Reddit more
- on surreyhistory.ca
- ask for drawings for SNC parking lot
- Open House: what would this look like?
- Scanning historical binders

Projects:**Information booklet redo**

Old booklet scanned in and OCR'd

Got some feedback from from a friend in communications:

- 1-Shorten and update tables contents and historical background section
(would remove two sections in table of contents, but can let you know later by phone)
- 2-Add to the table of contents a short section on Green Timbers' goals in 2020 or twenty first century.
- 3- Reduce internal cuisine info about Green timbers which can instead be added to fb page or website.
- 3-Update Green Timbers map with fancy new graphic
- 4-Reduce the number of trees and flora to about 10-15 maximum
- 5-Add a section on trees and flowers that might be endangered (if that is the case)
- 6-Didn't understand wildlife section. Update and add new info. 5-7 animals max
- 7-Use colour photos rather than drawings.

Meeting Adjourned:

6:47 pm

Next meeting 14 july

Appendix 1: SNAP Update

June 1st, 2020

Amy Kim, Program Coordinator

Past Month:

- Started Urban Forest Awareness project that seeks to connect Surrey's three designated urban forests (GTUF, SSAUF, Fleetwood). Through this project, I am looking at the old GTUF booklet/nature guide.
- Canada Summer Jobs sent an email with questions to answer regarding any potential modifications required in order to run SNAP. Colleen and I are working on those responses as they are due next week.
- We are working with City staff to come up with potential team structures. One potential structure we've identified is to have teams of 2 (1 team leader and 1 team member). This would reduce our original team size by about half. However, we have not been given direction from senior management yet.

This Month:

- The SNAP team leaders started last Wednesday! Our team members started today with their first day working from home doing administrative work like tax forms, signing contracts, etc. Our entire team will be meeting for the first time tomorrow. All my time has been spent getting the training ready and delivering it to our awesome new team. We will be having partner led tours of our parks this week.

Appendix 2: News Mentions May- June, 2020

May

COVID-19: Surrey city council approves plan for post-pandemic economic recovery

Among the plan's key points are a 90-day extension on late payment penalties for residential and commercial property tax. The July 3 payment deadline has now been pushed to Oct. 1, 2020.

Jennifer Saltman, May 6, 2020

...

The Green Timbers housing facility will also accommodate another 130 people.

[mention later removed]

<https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/covid-19-surrey-city-council-approves-plan-for-post-pandemic-economic-recovery/>

June

Surrey loses 'invaluable' community leader

Peter Maarsman, 83, of Newton died of cancer on June 1

Tom Zytaruk Jun. 9, 2020

Surrey has lost a man who gave so much of his energy to this community.

Peter Maarsman, 83, died of cancer on June 1. It wasn't a long fight – he only learned about it in April.

His contribution to this city was considerable. Maarsman served as president of the Foundation for the Coalition Against No-Fault in B.C., as executive director of the Surrey Crime Prevention Society, as president of the Green Timbers Heritage Society, and chairman of the Surrey Board of Trade, the latter being from 1994-95.

<https://www.surreynowleader.com/news/surrey-loses-invaluable-community-leader/>

25 years of summer employment opportunities for youth that also help the environment

Rattan Mall, June 16, 2020

CITY of Surrey's Salmon Habitat Restoration Program (SHaRP) and Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership (SNAP) are celebrating notable anniversaries in offering summer youth employment opportunities that build awareness and training in environmental stewardship. Collectively, the programs have employed over 880 students, who have received training in environmental restoration practices such as removing invasive plants, installing instream complexing features in waterways, and planting.

<https://voiceonline.com/25-years-of-summer-employment-opportunities-for-youth-that-also-help-the-environment/>

Two new supportive housing buildings on way for Surrey, province announces

Construction on Guildford facility to begin in July; land identified in Newton for third project

BEAU SIMPSON, Jun. 10, 2020

Two more supportive housing projects will soon provide more than 100 rooms in Surrey for the homeless or those on the edge of homelessness, the province announced Wednesday morning.

...

The City of Surrey and the provincial government are also building a six-storey supportive housing facility in Green Timbers, a project that has been years in the making.

In May 2019, the city approved the 60-year lease with the province for the housing, which will include 100 supportive housing units and 30 transitional accommodation spaces. It will also include support services such as counselling, health and food services, laundry facilities, a dining lounge and recreation and outdoor open space.

RainCity Housing and Support Society plans to operate the Green Timbers Way Housing Facility, located north of the Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre.

Construction began in November and is expected to be complete by late 2021.

<https://www.surreynowleader.com/news/two-new-supportive-housing-buildings-on-way-for-surrey-province-announces/>

Appendix 3: Facebook postings

May-June, 2020

Green Timbers update > June 2020

<https://mailchi.mp/922f2374527b/green-timbers-update-march-4060661>

Green Timbers update > June 2020

Peter was active with the Green Timbers Heritage Society for many years, and instrumental in a number of initiatives, including getting the forest to the North and West of the RCMP E-Division set aside as park, creating the Surrey Natural Areas Partnership, unning it for its early years, and innume...

Here are some early-morning pictures of Green Timbers from Kristina R. I have to publicly apologize -- they were shared in May and somehow -- somehow! -- I missed them. My favourites are the heron and the misty golden lake image. Yours? If you are posting your own images, make sure to add the tags #greentimbers and #greentimbersurbanforest. Does anyone else have images they'd like to share?

Photos from Green Timbers Heritage Society's post

Green Timbers Urban Forest > Welcome to the newsletter!

<https://mailchi.mp/7a3a9e935bbe/ki6xlgq4zj-4060657>

Green Timbers Urban Forest > Welcome to the newsletter!

The Green Timbers Urban Forest is the forested and treed area that looks and feels like a forest in the Green Timbers area. That sounds pretty obvious, but it covers not only the areas protected as park by the City, but a sliver of provincial forest between Fraser Highway and 96th Avenue at 140th ...

Walks in Green Timbers are back! Join us this Sat at 10 am

We have relaxed "forest bathing" walks for anyone interested, with proper social distancing of course.

Organized through Meetup: Heritage Society <http://meetu.ps/e/J535q/NbZKx/d>

Green Timbers Appreciation walk, featuring Physical Distancing

Sat, Jun 20, 2020, 10:00 AM: A nice walk through Green Timbers trails, which will be decided the day of. Dress for the weather and wear waterproof footgear, some trails can get a little bit mucky. Mas

An old culvert lies hidden off the beaten path, seen only by unauthorized campers!

#greentimbers #greentimbersurbanforest #urbanforest #forestbathing #culverts

Shared from Surrey Nature Centre:

Ducklings catching their lunch

Watch video on Facebook.com

Peter Maarsman, past president of the Green Timbers Heritage Society, and I believe the instigator or the SNAP program has died:

<https://www.surreynowleader.com/news/surrey-loses-invaluable-community-leader/>

Surrey loses 'invaluable' community leader - Surrey Now-Leader

www.surreynowleader.com

Peter Maarsman, 83, of Newton died of cancer on June 1

Shared from SNAP:

SNAP is back in action for the 2020 season! Welcome to our new Field Crew and Outreach Team, who will be working hard to enhance Surrey's urban forest and promote environmental stewardship to the community this summer, while ensuring COVID-19 health and safety measures are in place.

Shared from the Surrey Nature Centre:

The arboretum at Green Timbers Park has a variety of exotic trees. This one hails from California - do you know what it is?

Check back tomorrow to see if you were right :)

Still being planned, but timing up in the air: SkyTrain extension through Green Timbers Urban Forest.

Quote:

"In a report to the Mayors' Council ahead of Thursday's meeting, TransLink says the SkyTrain Expo Line Fraser Highway extension project cannot proceed with its pre-pandemic planning timeline due to the public transit authority's financial uncertainties."

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/surrey-langley-skytrain-translink-funding-challenges>

Surrey-Langley SkyTrain extension facing delays due to TransLink's fiscal crisis | Urbanized

COVID-19 is having a direct impact on the planning of the SkyTrain extension of the Expo Line along Fraser Highway reaching at least Fleetwood.

Re: urban forests being recognized as important. It's not just in BC or North America. India is stepping up as well:

<https://www.canindia.com/centre-to-develop-200-urban-forests-in-five-years/>

Centre to develop 200 'urban forests' in five years

New Delhi, June 5 (IANS) On the occasion of the World Environment Day on Friday, the Central government announced the implementation of 'Nagar Van' scheme to de

The idea that urban forests are an important part of cities continues to grow. Ft St John is looking at enhancing theirs:

https://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/fort-st-john/council-gets-first-look-at-urban-forest-strategy-1.24146886_safe_image.php?d=AQA8x-QwMD1aDPRF&w=292&

Council gets first look at urban forest strategy

www.alaskahighwaynews.ca

Fort St John council will get an update Monday on how the city plans to spend \$100,000 this year counting trees and figuring out where to plant more. Council has already approved the spending in . . .

Regina plans to cut down over 60 trees in Wascana park for a new pool. Wascana Park is to Regina what Stanley Park is to Vancouver.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/wascana-pool-fougere-protesters-ribbons-1.5588118>

Protesters wrap ribbons around trees to oppose removal for new Wascana Pool | CBC News

Regina Mayor Michael Fougere says any removed trees will be replaced by planting new ones.