

Cowichan Station Area Association
Directors' Meeting
August 26, 2008

Attendees:

Sarah Davies-Long, Jeannie McIntosh, Angela Davies, Madelaine MacLeod, Sue Wells, Patty John, Guy LaFlam, Gwen Siciliano

Called to order at 7:20 pm

Approval of minutes with addition of "Neighbourhood Watch" to new business.

Motioned: Sue Seconded: Guy. Carried

Committee Reports

School – Sarah reported that this committee decided that our hope for the building is a "community centre" and therefore options for its use are unlimited. She emailed Mike Tippet regarding our next step and his response was that SD 79 be approached re lease of building and that budget (this fall) is also a consideration. There is a precedent in Elsie Mills as Elsie Mills currently leases from SD 79. Suggestion that CSAA also explore other models for use and SD approach.

Discussion regarding how to open dialogue with SD 79, comments that with P. Turin no longer on SD 79, that this may now be easier. Suggest that a letter to Loren Duncan requesting his assistance in approaching SD regarding interest in building. Sarah offered to talk to Joe Barrie re Elsie Miles precedent.

Motion by Jeannie. Sarah to contact Joe Barrie re Elsie Miles lease from SD 79 and use information to draft letter to L. Duncan requesting his assistance to approach SD 79 regarding Cowichan Station school property. Seconded by Gwen. CARRIED.

Madelaine reported that she has been advised that the community needs to contact the SD directly (and often) if any maintenance/vandalism repair needs to be attended to as they should not be allowed to let it slide. She also reported that per last meeting and regarding use of closed school sites (outside) by the community, she was told to follow up during September when school was back in session.

Village Centre – (new business item) Jeannie reported that a number of break-ins and thefts had occurred in Cowichan Station recently. Discussion about implementing Neighbourhood Watch program. Guy suggested option would be "neighbourly watch" vs. large corporation involvement. Sue suggested that emails be sent to members/community of any unusual activities that might be observed, as well to investigate Neighbourhood Watch and/or CrimeStoppers idea. Motion by Jeannie. Patty to investigate Neighbourhood Watch for more ideas/information. Seconded by Sue. CARRIED.

Committee put forth a list of ideas, including but not limited to: >Patty mentioned ideas of lighting for safety – How do we put it in? >Village proper to include those properties in the immediate area zoned R2. > Discussion about roadway signage (ie bike lane); > Discussion about destruction/removal of roadway signs. Angela reported she had contacted Ministry of Transportation re graffitied signs – told to be rectified 8-10 days; > Sue suggested that some signage issues may be CVRD and some may be MoT.

Motion by Madelaine. Guy to document those road signs that need to be restored/replaced. In co-ordination with Angela, a letter will be send to MoT (cc CVRD) requesting their attention to the matter. Seconded by Sue. CARRIED.

Village centre list included the following other long term ideas/goals: >pathways through private lands that offer alternate bike/walk/hike trails (along E&N right of way?) > addition of benches and lighting; >heritage corridor idea to tie village common and green spaces together as well as link to historical/farming past; >Madelaine suggested her husband for ideas as he worked on a BIA project in Calgary. >future signage to be consistent/branded with link to history (dairy farm theme?);> Suggest we consider idea of “heritage corridor” vs. “heritage” status (space v. thing/value as a whole v. unchangeable);> traffic calming ideas? > Madelaine and Angela commented on amount of signage currently an eyesore because there is SO much of it. Patty commented that might consider looking at European examples.

Busing – September 9 is a CVRD information session re transit through Cowichan Station TIME AND PLACE TBA (put forward idea that parking is available at the school). Discussed idea of acceptable/tolerable noise levels as currently lots of traffic noise. Suggest we check with Loren re “Quiet Zone” during Sept 9 meeting

Parks – Streamkeepers course October 4 and 5, 2008. Cost is \$60.00 per person. Need to check with Loren as to how many seats available and if any are subsidized. Need to notify our membership.

Motion by Patty. Sue to check with Loren re details on Streamkeepers Course; Sarah to send out notice of course in upcoming newsletter/email to membership. Seconded Madelaine. CARRIED.

Treasurer’s Report – (Angela) Received letter and \$1500 cheque from CVRD for Grant in Aid; We need to fill out form for the Tourism grant and specify what additional \$1500 will be used for.

Old Business

1. Letter to Jack Peake /Island Corridor Foundation re maintenance/restoration request for train station Moved to approved with minor changes by Angela. Seconded by Patty. CARRIED. To be send with cc emailed to Mr. Peake in Lake Cowichan.
2. Summer Celebration – once again successful; church needs youth to help. There were no activities for the kids because no one volunteered
3. Tea Wave – no information

4. Phone tree – Jeannie had divided the membership list so that each of the director’s responsible for calling. Discussion around what phone tree was to be used for. Final recommendations: Madelaine (as secretary) will use the phone list to contact those members without emails as to upcoming meetings. Madelaine wondered what happened to original “at large” community contact list as existing “membership” list excludes many of original names. How do we get more members? Further discussion led to suggestion that CSAA needs a membership committee

New Business

1. Bus route (see above)
2. Notice re garbage pick up went out and were to be returned August 25
3. Lot zoning – concerns re number of lots being sold and rezoned to increase density. This can lead to water and sewer issues. Mike Tippet would have better idea and perhaps concerns are addressed as part of OCP.
4. Treasurer’s report – current account stands at \$2015.27 (less \$30.00 cheque for Madelaine re membership/signup fee)
5. Grant in aid funds (see above)
6. General meeting to be September 23 @ 7:30 at St. Andrew’s Church....Sue will book hall, Madelaine will post notices at mailboxes.
7. Membership drive – at next meeting
8. Neighbourhood watch (see above)

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.....Moved by Jeannie, Seconded by Angela CARRIED.

Note: New business for general meeting

- Membership committee
- Bus route
- Signage committee