

Unofficial until approved at next AGM

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SECHELT GROVES SOCIETY**

Held at #17-5630 Trail Ave., Sechelt, BC

Thursday, April 14th, 2016 at 7 PM

Meeting of the Membership and Guests

All attendees were required to sign in on a form made part of the record to confirm a quorum.

- 1) Welcome and Call to Order at 7:08 PM by President D'Arcy. It was noted that a quorum was in attendance – 6 members including 4 Board members.
- 2) The President asked if there were any additions to the Agenda at this time. No additions
- 3) The President called for a Motion to adopt the agenda – Moved Lou Janke – Seconded Jim Stockall - Carried
- 4) Motion to approve the minutes of the last general meeting of the Society – April 2, 2015 – posted on website. Moved by Michael Siddall and seconded by Gertrude Pacific, carried unanimously.
- 5) The President advised - Current Board of Directors was elected for a term of two years in 2015 and therefore in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society the 7 current members will carry on for the 2016/17 term. They are: Bob D'Arcy - Michael Davidson - Rupert Clark -- Michael Siddall -- Doug Smith -- Mike Sutcliffe - Lou Janke.

There is provision for 8 Board members and your Board as a nominating committee has put forward –Jim Stockall - to fill the vacancy. There being no other nominees and in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society he is elected by acclamation.

6) President's Report – (as presented to the meeting)

As noted in the agenda, the Board completed its obligation and passed the two motions made and referred at the last AGM. You have copies.

As most are aware nothing new has been started as the result of the motions. No new projects outside of the Groves have been started and that includes no work on Deerhorn Park.

That does not mean your Trailbuilders have been sitting idle. On the contrary they have dedicated over 700 hours working in the Groves and there is some more to do.

Long ago when trails were built in the Heritage Forest and then the new Groves areas there was a learning curve. Your Trailbuilders have learned new and better ways to make trails. Ongoing now is the redoing of many of the older trails to fit the newly learned standards. A better trail and trail system for all has been the priority.

Michael Davidson will report later on the plans for ongoing work in the next 12 months. Certainly if the current trails are up to standard then some other project may be moved forward interspersed with regular maintenance of our main world – the Sechelt Heritage Groves.

Your board accepted, in principle, an offer from the artist to locate a work of art in honour of the forest fire fighters in the Groves but this was surprisingly taken over by the District of Sechelt with a much more minor installation certainly not really meeting the standards your Board had agreed. The District spent a considerable sum on their effort. Too bad for the taxpayer and I think maybe we are well out of it.

While the trail upgrading has been the main effort through the past 12 months there have been some others events to note:

Our Provincial BC Forestry partner has provided official signage for the Groves entrances and these are now in place specifying, "Recreation Sites and Trails BC"

The District of Sechelt refurbished the parking lot areas and did a fine job. Our thanks go out to Parks and Public Works.

A new Lost and Found board was installed near the Kiosk

The special bike rack was installed.

One of our Trailbuilders had his photography skills recognized on CBC's 'BC Almanac'

We had a great "Thank You" dinner party for the Trailbuilders and are grateful to Michael Davidson and Gertrude Pacific for allowing use of their home.

We supplied the Sechelt Archives in the library with a complete archive of the Sechelt Groves from the start and up to the end of 2014. Ann Watson, the archivist was most grateful and now all the documentation, photos and more are available to everyone forever.

The website has been kept up pretty well and we recommend you visit it often to keep up to date on Groves' matter and to see often posted photos with the news.

Our required filing to maintain our charitable status has been made and we have received official confirmation all is in order from the Feds for another year. We will file the required report for the Societies Act after this meeting.

That's about it for my President's Report.

Now is the time for the **Secretary/Treasurers report** and your President will present that for Michael Davidson who is designated for the job but let's me do it.

First the Financials. You should have received a year end copy of the report for the close of our fiscal year, December, 2015 as you came in. I have also supplied a report of our up to date position and a copy will be attached to this report.

With no major project in the cards and some funds coming in regularly we are in good shape. If a new major project starts, we will start a special fund raising effort.

For now, membership count is more important than our financial balance. Membership count is what gives us influence with potential helpers like the DoS, The SCRD, the Province and, of course, the big donors in Victoria and Ottawa when we need them.

I appeal to you: speak to all you can and ask them to join the Groves Society – just the annual regular \$10 membership is little to ask and could make a big difference. Of course, if they want to make a donation too that is welcome and donations over \$10 get tax receipts.

I find it hard to understand how there are so many people who use the Groves nearly daily and fail to join - just as a thanks to the Trailbuilders for keeping things up.

As of Monday, April 11, 2016 we have a total of 48 members plus 5 Super Dog members. Of the 48: 4 are lifetime (who will not contribute this year or any in the future), 3 are Gold Supporters, 10 are Friend level, 13 are complimentary Trailbuilders and the rest are either \$10 annual leaving only 18 good old \$10 members. With all the traffic I see in the Groves I appeal to you: speak to all you can and ask them to join the Groves at any level. Especially the free loaders who are nearly daily. Get tough.

I also want to especially recognize Swanson's Ready Mix Ltd and Vital Signs & Graphics who contribute often in discount signage or free ground covers.

Now before asking for a motion and seconder to accept the Financial statements as presented, are there any questions or comments.

There followed a discussion of how the membership might be brought up. Several suggestions were made including but not limited to:

- Trailbuilders and anyone else they could convince to follow suit might carry a couple of the "map/membership forms" at all times and give them out as opportunity arose in discussion with anyone. There are always some of the forms in the box at the kiosk thanks to the volunteer effort of Debra Campbell
- Investigate setting up a booth at the Sechelt Farmers Market and with some pictures up and with someone manning it we might get some members as so many attend that event.

- Needless to say considering the group there were some less practical suggestions made i.e. an armed guard at a gate to stop anyone leaving until they join up!

Finally, the motion to accept the Financial Statements as presented:

Motion: Lou Janke

Secunder: Bob D'Arcy

The President then called for some specific reports on the activities of the Society over past year and called upon Michael Davidson who gave a detailed report:

1. All trails are being upgraded to the current high standard with a goal of reducing maintenance to a minimum for the future.
2. In the Heritage Forest the tough one, the Root Loop, the steepest trail in the Groves is now being worked upon. The only solution to a permanent situation is stairs so it is a big job ahead.
3. Drainage has been an issue in many places and due to the heavy rains and new culverts have been put in. The sumps put in by the DoS do not function well as the openings quickly fill with debris. Instead we have found simple cross ditches work.
4. There is mixed success with the Rhododendrons.
 - a. In dry summer some must be hand watered or they fail
 - b. Others do not appear to get enough sun.
 - c. Some are surviving and slowly growing – particularly up the 'Take It Easy' trail.
 - d. New locations are going to be considered – maybe a sunny spot is near the stream in the Heritage Forest
5. A trail system might be designed and built to join up with the new SSC Development but that will not be for some time.

Interpretive Signage The President gave a brief report regarding the Interpretative signage. As I reported in the past I have accessed several parties to try and do this simple job with no success so far but working on it steady. Best hope now is 2 members of the Community Forest with the background to help but they are very busy. Dave Lasser at the SCCF is keeping the pressure up for me. Remember as well, we have the money for the signs pledged from the SCCF – up to \$3000 – so it would be nice if it all tied together. There are 2 kinds of signs. Small ground level ones with plant names, probably English, Salish and Latin. A few larger (14 inches by 9 inches) on posts to explain some highlights.

The President gave an update on the Society's work with and relationship with some other organizations.

We try and work with other Coast organizations to cooperate and get support. Some are:

- Sunshine Coast Trails Society – where we are a member with a delegate – Rupert Clark – who goes to the monthly meetings and reports in if needed. Thanks to Rupert.
- The Community Forest – they support us at every turn
- District of Sechelt – with all the changes going on I really do not have a clue what they have in mind – if anything about the Groves. Now I must make a specific exception here – we do have super relations with the Parks and the Public Works folks but by going direct. A big thank you to them.
- SCR D – limited contact but once in awhile about something and they are always helpful
- Any contact with the Sandy Hook Community Association seems to have gone into limbo. They are not even a simple member anymore in spite of appeals.
- Finally, the Department of Forestry and the Province – Super. While answers are very slow to get because the rep. Alistair McCone, Recreation Officer, Sea to Sky Recreation District, Southern Sunshine Coast Area, South Vancouver Island District AND the person we deal with is most helpful.

Moving on to some new business now.

.As set out in the agenda in accordance with the Bylaws a motion by Bob D’Arcy was read to the meeting as follows:

The Society shall change its Bylaws as follows: Bylaw 5. 26 shall be changed by deleting the requirement reading:

” Included in any slate prepared shall be no fewer than two nominees from the Board of the Sandy Hook Community Association who have been selected by the current directors in consultation with the president of the Sandy Hook Community Association and who have confirmed their willingness to serve as directors of the society. Should one or more of the Sandy Hook Community Association board members selected decline to serve then replacement director nominees may be chosen from the society membership”

Discussion. There was full support for the motion as it seemed to have served its time and the Sandy Hook Association was not even a member any longer. The old wording complicated and delayed the appointment of new and replacement board members.

Second. Lou Janke Vote. Unanimous

With that the floor was opened for suggestions and comments some of which included:

One concern was keeping up the Trailbuilders’ numbers as we will always need replacements for the current fine team for a variety of reasons. The consensus seemed to be that we should carry on as presently by approaching likely looking people in the more senior age group (so a job does not conflict) and discuss them coming out on a work day. At the moment it appears all is working well but wise to think of the future.

No other projects are planned for 2016 until the long term revitalization of the older trails is completed

and there was a pleasant and fun conversation on many issues related to the Groves and the Society.

(Special Note: Yes, there were chocolate cookies.)

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Sutcliffe at 8:20 PM.

NOTE: COPIES OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REFERENCED IN THE MINUTES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGES.

Sechelt Groves Society - General Expense
2015 Financial Statement
Final at
December 31st, 2015

Opening Balance January 1/14 = \$5,507.90

Income

GENERAL INCOME

Annual Memberships	\$650.00	
Memberships held at PayPal	\$40.00	
Over Annuals & Donations	\$2,212.00	
Over Annuals Held at PayPal	\$130.00	
SHCA Donation	\$0.00	
Sales of Goods or usage	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous	\$150.00	
Investment & Interest	\$0.00	
District Grant in Aid?	\$0.00	
	\$0.00	
	\$3,182.00	\$8,689.90

Expenses

GENERAL EXPENSES

PayPal Deductions	\$49.34	
Registration (society) costs	\$25.00	
Misc. Groves Materials	\$1,517.61	
Gifts Given-SCTrails	\$100.00	
Licenses/Permits/Memberships	\$40.00	
Meet and Greet	\$0.00	
Printing, Office, etc.	\$82.17	
Website		
-	\$35.42	
Bank Services	\$45.00	
Plaques and Benches	\$0.00	
	\$1,894.54	\$1,894.54

OVERALL BALANCE \$6,795.36

IN BANK

Regular Balance----->>	\$6,795.36	
Held at PayPal	-\$170.00	
Actually in Royal Bank	\$6,625.36	

Sechelt Groves Society - General Expense
2016 Financial Statement
Updated: April 11, 2016

Opening Balance January 1/14 = \$6,625.36

Income

GENERAL INCOME

Annual Memberships	\$250.00	
Memberships held at PayPal	\$0.00	
Over Annuals & Donations	\$735.00	
Over Annuals Held at PayPal	\$0.00	
SHCA Donation	\$0.00	
Sales of Goods or usage	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	
Investment & Interest	\$0.00	
District Grant in Aid?	\$0.00	
	\$0.00	
	\$985.00	\$7,610.36

Expenses

GENERAL EXPENSES

PayPal Deductions	\$20.39	
Registration (society) costs	\$0.00	
Misc. Groves Materials	\$319.10	
Gifts Given	\$592.45	
Licenses/Permits/Memberships	\$0.00	
Dinner Meet-Trailbuilders	\$553.02	
Printing, Office, etc.	\$30.84	
Website		
-	\$0.00	
Bank Services	\$15.00	
Plaques and Benches	\$0.00	
	\$1,530.80	\$1,530.80

OVERALL BALANCE \$6,079.56

IN BANK

Regular Balance-----		
>>	\$6,079.56	
Held at PayPal	\$0.00	
Actually in Royal Bank	\$6,079.56	