

Unofficial until approved at next AGM

**2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SECHELT GROVES SOCIETY**

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

Thursday, April 11th, 2017 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 7:11 PM by President D'Arcy. It was noted that a quorum was in attendance – 5 members including 5 Board members plus 1 special guest rep of important supporter.
- 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 Doug Smith – Seconded Michael Davidson - Carried
- 4) Motion to approve the minutes of the last general meeting of the Society – April 14, 2016 – posted on website. Moved by Jim Stockall and seconded by Doug Smith, carried unanimously.
- 5) The President advised - 7 of the Current Board of Directors were elected for a term of two years in 2015 and therefore in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society up to 7 members are to be elected for the years of 2018/2019. Previous board members have agreed to run and they are: Bob D'Arcy - Michael Davidson - Rupert Clark -- Michael Siddall -- Doug Smith -- Mike Sutcliffe - Lou Janke. 8th current member, Jim Stockall remains on the board until 2018.

There is provision for 8 Board members. No other nominees were put forward therefore in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society the previous board members are elected by acclamation.

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

I will try to be a bit briefer than last year. It is all pretty good news.

The paperwork is up to date. We refiled with the BC Societies to comply with their new format and have received confirmation. We have renewed our Charitable status with the Feds and received confirmation. We will file the required annual report for the Societies Act after this meeting.

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 1100 hours working in and on the Groves in the past 12 months. 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. Just have a visit and you can see the super new designs that handle the rain and traffic so much better. The Sechelt Community Forest has aided in the identification and removal of any danger trees and this will be an ongoing process. Ordinary root rot is the common problem meaning a good-looking tree just might be a hazard at any time.

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

- We had a great "Thank You" dinner party for the Trailbuilders and are grateful to Lou and Marlene Janke for allowing use of their home.
- The website has been kept up pretty well and we recommend you visit it often to keep up to date on Groves' matters and to see often posted photos with the news.
- In October, Vancouver Tours for Seniors came to the Hidden Grove and have indicated that the Groves will be a regular summer stop for them.

- We had much ado about the Doggie Bag Issue and new signage was put up along with a letter to the press. Hopefully, this problem will be reduced.

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 2016 as you came in. I have also supplied a report of our up to date position.

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. I am pleased to confirm that we are scheduled to receive a grant of \$750 this year from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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. This issue was highlighted in my report last year.

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.

A new idea just being setup is for the volunteers to act as "Trail Ambassadors". A B&B operator in Tuwanek has agreed to administer it and Lou Janke is acting as the on-site contact. All the Trailbuilders and all who volunteer will be issued with buttons identifying themselves as Ambassadors happy to answer questions or escort folks in the Groves as guides pointing out highlights. Groups can phone at least 24 hours ahead to book an Ambassador so we hope that some of the bus runs and school classes take advantage of this. Needless to say, the Ambassadors will solicit memberships.

- 1) There was some out of order discussion regarding the difficulty in visitors noticing the bulletin board and the possibility of relocating some of the boards to provide better exposure. Possibly, putting a board in the centre back looking into the kiosk. It was agreed that this would be reviewed and some action taken soon. All were encouraged to look at the situation, engage with others and send in their thoughts on it. -

The Trailbuilders will be carrying a new handout - Trail Builders Tale - that explains the trail building efforts in almost technical detail. This handout has a membership form as part of it. We encourage you to carry some printed out copies to handout. They are on the website on many web pages as an easily printable letter size document. There is a copy posted in the bulletin board at the kiosk.

- 2) There was some out of order discussion that in time this handout presentation be reviewed and updated depending on conditions -

As of Monday, April 11, 2017 we have a total of 53 members plus 7 Super Dog members. Of the 53: 4 are lifetime (who will not contribute this year or any in the future), 6 are Gold Supporters, 11 are Friend level, 18 are complimentary Trailbuilders or other and leaving only 10 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. Thanks to the District of Sechelt who pay our extra insurance bill. AND as always thanks to the Sechelt Community Forest for all they do in many ways.

Upon asking for a motion and seconder to accept the Financial statements as presented, it was asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none to record at this point and acceptance was moved:

Motion: Michael Davidson

Seconder: Michael Siddall

The President then called for some specific reports

- a) Regular Trail Building, maintenance and improvements in 2015 – Davidson reported in some detail regarding the upgrading of several trails and work in progress. Specific mention was made of:
 - i) The new uphill trail from Monty's Way with rockeries and a stream effectively sent underground.
 - ii) Work progressing for a new trail to bypass some of the issues near marker 17 to 9 and the green and black trails there.
- b) Native planting and other projects – Davidson reported that 2 planting of native Rhodes were doing very well but 2 plantings along Monty's Way were not so good. These will be moved when weather and time permits.
- c) Interpretive Signage–D'Arcy commented that one outstanding item that is progressing is the signs for naming important plants and some interpretive signage for major features in the Groves. Believe it or not, progress is being made. We have developed a full list of the plants we wish to name and the fundamentals of the sign design have been set. We need some better weather to take some pictures for some of the plant signs. We are being assisted on the interpretative signs by knowledgeable Sechelter Tony Greenfield.
- d) Work with other senior organizations affecting Groves (SCTrails, Community Forest, DoS, SCRCD and Sea to Sky Recreation District, SHCA community hall question – D'Arcy commented
 - SCTrails, we are members and try to help but they generally work in another world.
 - Community Forest, nothing but help and advice and money for things too. Can always call on them.
 - DoS, not very active with us but paid the insurance bill this year
 - SCRCD and Sea to Sky, nothing to note
 - SHCA and community building. We have told them is it's not on for the Groves.
- e) NEW Business – including Plans for 2016/17 and forward for Sechelt Heritage Forest Recreation Site or other projects
 - Guest Dave Lasser of SCCF reviewed the danger tree program and how he along with Davidson had been canvassing the Groves. The parking area is the next area and looks like there may be some issues to deal with SHCA and community building. We have told them is it's not on for the Groves.

There was then some open discussion and few laughs. THERE WERE chocolate cookies.

D'Arcy summed up with a thank you to all including those who could not make to this meeting.

The AGM meeting was adjourned. At 8:11.

In a meeting called by Board members immediately – The current officers of the Board of Directors were confirmed unanimously to continue as is for 2017-2018

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

Sechelt Groves Society - General Expense			
2016 Financial Statement			
Updated: December 31, 2016			
		Opening Balance January 1/16 =	\$6,625.36
Income			
	<u>GENERAL INCOME</u>		
	Annual Memberships	\$686.25	
	Memberships held at PayPal	\$0.00	Transferred In
	Over Annuals & Donations	\$2,495.00	
	Over Annuals Held at PayPal	\$0.00	Transferred In
	SHCA Donation	\$0.00	
	Sales of Goods or usage	\$0.00	
	Miscellaneous	\$0.00	
	Investment & Interest	\$0.00	
	District Grant in Aid?	\$0.00	Paid Insurance
	BC Government	\$950.00	Grant
		<u>\$4,131.25</u>	<u>\$10,756.61</u>
Expenses			
	<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>		
	PayPal Deductions	\$71.75	
	Registration (society) costs	\$75.00	
	Misc. Groves Materials	\$727.40	
	Gifts Given	\$592.45	
	Licenses/Permits/Memberships	\$120.00	
	Dinner Meet-Trailbuilders	\$664.47	
	Printing, Office, etc.	\$48.69	
	Website -	\$0.00	
	Bank Services	\$41.25	
	Plaques and Benches	\$0.00	
		<u>\$2,341.01</u>	<u>\$2,341.01</u>
			<u>\$8,415.60</u>
		OVERALL BALANCE	\$8,415.60
		<u>IN BANK</u>	
	Regular Balance----->>		\$8,415.60
	Held at PayPal		\$0.00
		<u>Actually in Royal Bank</u>	<u>\$8,415.60</u>

Sechelt Groves Society - General Expense	
2017 Financial Statement	
	Updated: April 12, 2017
	Opening Balance January 1/17 = \$8,415.60
Income	
	<u>GENERAL INCOME</u>
Annual Memberships	\$220.00
Memberships held at PayPal	\$0.00
Over Annuals & Donations	\$1,140.00
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
BC Government	\$0.00
	\$1,360.00
	\$9,775.60
Expenses	
	<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>
PayPal Deductions	\$34.51
Registration (society) costs	\$0.00
Misc. Groves Materials	\$683.34
Gifts Given	\$0.00
Licenses/Permits/Memberships	\$0.00
Dinner Meet-Trailbuilders	\$715.65
Printing, Office, etc.	\$801.85
Website -	\$40.48
Bank Services	\$33.60
Plaques and Benches	\$0.00
	\$2,309.43
	\$2,309.43
	OVERALL BALANCE
	\$7,466.17
	<u>IN BANK</u>
Regular Balance----->>	\$7,466.17
Held at PayPal	\$0.00
	Actually in Royal Bank
	\$7,466.17