

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SECHELT GROVES SOCIETY
Held at #17-5630 Trail Ave., Sechelt, BC
Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 7 PM
Meeting of the Membership and Guests**

- 1) Welcome and Call to Order at 7:08 PM by President D'Arcy. It was noted that a quorum was in attendance – 10 members including 4 Board members.
- 2) The President asked if there were any additions to the Agenda at this time. Trailbuilder member Damien Wallbank asked that the subject of Sandy Hook's Deerhorn Park be put on the agenda.
- 3) With the one addition the President called for a Motion to adopt the agenda – Moved Damien Wallbank – Seconded Mike Sutcliffe - Carried
- 4) Motion to approve the minutes of the last general meeting of the Society – March 20, 2014 – posted on website. Moved by Ken Hall and seconded by Damien Wallbank , carried unanimously.
- 5) The President advised - Current Board of Directors was elected for a term of two years in 2013 and therefore in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society an ongoing Board must be elected for the 2015-2017 bi-annual term period and a list not exceeding 8 members has been prepared as follows:

Bob D'Arcy - Michael Davidson - Rupert Clark -- Kirk Exner -- Michael Siddall -- Doug Smith -- Mike Sutcliffe - Lou Janke. Motion to accept. Jason Herz Seconded. Mike Sutcliffe

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

Again I am lucky to be able to give a good news report. Membership is in good shape and we have money in the bank, the trails are in good shape or being upgraded, and our Trailbuilders have hung in there for it all.

You can see that later in the agenda there will be more detailed reports on specific items.

Before I go into any detail I always must acknowledge and thank and compliment the very core of our success. The real work is done by Michael Davidson and his hearty gang of volunteer Trailbuilder members. Michael works untold hard hours himself but I want to also single out those serving on the work parties these past months who have done so much on all the projects.

In October the Society sponsored a special dinner for the Trailbuilders. Thank you Tom Melski for letting the group use your home. The Society presented each Trailbuilder with a special work vest as tiny thank you for all their efforts. Each and every one of them is hereby cheered and let's have a round of applause. [ALL applauded loudly]

Part of the philosophy of the Society board was that we would not burden board members with a bunch of meetings but rather just get the jobs done. We have certainly succeeded in this area as we have managed to avoid having one single actual physical board meeting this past year and only three declared online meetings. I want to assure you all though that this does not mean the board was not functioning. Email is wonderful and we kept in touch and even voted on issues that way throughout the year. There were definite places where the board agreement was needed and the email worked well.

Some of these specifics of the year will be reported on more fully later in this meeting by Michael Davidson and I could go on about lots of little things but the huge news is that it is now confirmed after over 6 years of negotiations that we have a special status for the Groves – something we have been hoping for since day one.

I am super pleased that we now have a formal agreement with the Provincial Government (including acceptance by the Sechelt Indian Band, The District and the Community Forest) and I will just run through the basics here. You can hit me with questions later.

- It is loosely called a Partnership Agreement and prior to me signing it I did get the Board to vote – it was unanimous for me to proceed.

- The Sechelt Heritage Forest and the Hidden Grove are now consolidated legally into one protected area called the “Sechelt Heritage Forest Recreation Site”. This formal legal name does not bar us from using the separate names for our own purposes – for signage or correspondence or maps. I will just refer it all as the Groves.
- With this comes the long sought after Section 56 protection. It would take a very involved exercise including provincial government special changes to allow any logging or even any major change of use at all in the Groves.
- What we philosophically see as the purpose of the Groves forever is set out in a declaration filed in the government records as what they call “principles”. It is so important I am going to read out the current version but we are making some minor cosmetic changes in the next month or so – it takes time with government to do anything. Here goes:

The Sechelt Heritage Forest Recreation Site is:

1. An area fully protected with prohibitions against all logging or harvesting activities with the exception of:
 - a. The removal of hazard trees for the safety of visitors and workers;
 - b. Non-commercial picking of mushrooms, berries or ground plants where such picking is only done in such a manner as to not disturb the appearance or viability of the area where the picking is done;
 - c. The removal of limited specimens of native plants for botanical research or propagation purposes by parties publically qualified for such;
 - d. The removal of invasive plants.
2. Is restricted beyond the designated parking areas to walking only with the exception of mobility assistance wheeled transport (wheelchairs, both manual and motorized, infant carts and similar), and required maintenance equipment utilized by the Agreement Holder or their designee.
3. An area to protect and enhance environmentally sensitive areas, providing educational opportunities to understand their values, while balancing the accommodation of public access.
4. To provide a trail system that will be a desirable attraction for locals and tourists, in terms of location, character, quality and support infrastructure with particular attention to designing and layout of trails to provide as much as possible an experience of seclusion and privacy – the better to enjoy the natural surroundings.

Now carrying on with more points:

- The new agreement provides some limited access to government funds by filing work orders with the provincial Recreation Officer. I say limited as he has annual limited funds and when they are gone he can't grant any more.
- There is limited public liability and accident insurance provided by the province. We currently have a package paid for by the District and will continue to need this but should be able to negotiate a substantial reduction in costs with the primary cover coming from the province.
- The Society or its legal successor is designated as the 'caretaker' for the Groves.
- The agreement cannot be changed without agreement from the Society.

That is the big news so as I said, much of what there is to report will be covered in specifics later on. To close this report I want to add my thanks to all the membership for their support. You have made it happen.

Treasurer's Report – I get to present it as I do the function of Treasurer so that Michael is free to keep the field work going. Financial Statements were handed out to attendees upon their sign-in at the reception desk. I hope these are pretty well self-explanatory.

In the 2014 report you will see that there were no major grants this year just as there were no major projects. We ended the year with a nice positive balance to carry into this year, 2015.

This year we are doing fine as well. We will be spending much of the balance on maintenance and upgrading but we will be helped some by the work order funds from the province.

Building a balance is prudent as who knows what might come down in the future. Maybe a new project at some time for the Society to pursue.

I would be pleased to try and field any questions on the Finances now. [A couple of general questions were raised regarding sources of income.]

As a Membership Report I should note that you can always go to the website to see the current list and the past year lists. We ended 2014 with 79 members including 4 lifetime members, 11 Gold Members and 13 Friend memberships plus 3 Super Dogs.

To date this year we have 65 members at this early date which is very gratifying. It shows support and appreciation. Simple memberships are very important for our future. It is numbers that give us credibility with outside organizations and big foundations or the government donors. Please encourage your friends to do the \$10 bit if nothing else.

Any questions on the membership part of things? *(None were forthcoming)*

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 that have been planned are now built with permanent metal signage with 911 information all installed.
- (2) Coloured trail markers are all in place but some need touching up as an ongoing maintenance matter.
- (3) In a departure from the usual design standards but to address a specific issue, a new boardwalk was put in over the skunk cabbage wetland in the Heritage Forest.
- (4) New culverts – mainly 8 inch rather than 4 inch – have been installed in most problem drainage areas. This seems to be working well.
- (5) Trail from Inlet Road to top of hill has been rerouted for a more scenic and safer route
- (6) Work on the Red trail continues.
- (7) The native rhododendron plantings are doing well. Gertrude Pacific has watered the very young plants during the few dry periods and taken steps to reduce bug infestations. A volunteer has been recruited who has in depth knowledge of native plantings and he will be engaged to improve that aspect of the Groves.
- (8) Meetings and ongoing contact has been held with the Sechelt Community Forest folks as they have agreed to sponsor installation of some interpretive signage in the Groves. There will be very limited installations so as to not detract for the natural look. Three types are contemplated:
 - (a) Small ground level signs to advise on plant names
 - (b) Slightly larger eye level signs to denote special features or places where some special event took place in the long natural history of the Groves.
 - (c) A kiosk sign advising “what to look for” while in the Groves.

After thanking Michael, the President gave an update on the Society’s work with and relationship with some other organizations.

First, the Sunshine Coast Community Forest. Our relationship continues to be excellent. Dave Lasser responds in every way he can to our calls and requests. The actual Hidden Grove has expanded a bit thanks to him. We know Dave is there when we need him. Thank you Sunshine Coast Community Forest. I should

advise that I have been asked to stand for the Board of the Community Forest although it is not settled yet. This should give us a bit of influence there although Board matters there are legally in confidence.

The District of Sechelt continue to support us with a free insurance program. In light of our excellent financial situation we did not apply for a Grant in Aid in this year. The Parks department with Perry Schmidt and the Public Works Department with John Mercer continues to be very helpful.

Your Hidden Grove folks are working with Sunshine Coast Trails Society and we are members and with Rupert Clarke regularly attending the meetings to contribute and report.

Moving on to some new business now.

I am going to let Michael primarily address the topic of the future except for me to say we are seeing an end to development of the Groves so that it becomes a maintenance and improvement project. How soon this is the case depends upon how the remaining work in the Groves gets done including some upgrading in the Heritage Forest.

Our Bylaws allow us to take on projects outside the Groves provided they meet our Constitution. There are some ideas for work very close by and some further afield, like a trail for the SC Trails group up Mt. Richardson. No decisions have been made yet and we would go out to the full board before getting too far off our current marks.

Michael, would you give us a brief rundown on the Plans for 2015 and maybe 2016 Sechelt Heritage Forest and Hidden Grove projects.

Michael Davidson advised:

When the final upgrading is finished it will certainly not be the end of work in the Groves. There will always be maintenance to be done. It is a large complex and just when you think you are up to date an earlier finished area needs work. Nevertheless, the demands should be reduced substantially allowing for the Society to look at some new projects.

Specific mention has been made of an ambitious trail up Mt. Richardson for the Sunshine Coast Trails Society and many would like to see a trail up to Grey Creek Falls and this is being investigated some. The legal status of building there is still unknown.

After thanking Michael, the President moved on to the two agenda items added by members:

1. Motion by member for discussion at the AGM: "that we put an end to digging holes? You don't see any holes at Cliff Gilker or Kinnikinnick; instead they have boardwalks over the muddy areas, and they don't use gravel anywhere except the parking lot." Several of the attendees commented on this:
 - i. The Groves are not a designated "Park" and therefore many standards will vary from that. The groves (with one exception so far) do not put in boardwalks to detract from the natural appearance and stairs are not wood generally for safety reasons.
 - ii. The holes are dug to provide material for wet area filling. All holes will be filled in some manner and it is on the list of the many things the Trailbuilders must do. They do not rush at this since often more material is need after a season of observation so it saves re-opening.
 - iii. The idea of hiding the holes with moveable stacked logs was suggested as this left the hole open but hidden and provided a home for some small wild life.
2. The idea of making Deerhorn Park a Groves project generated much discussion but overall there was support for this. In no particular order:
 - a. It would be important that this first project outside of the Groves would be balanced for the entire community and not just for those living near the park. There must be a other additions listed to be done or considered as time allowed for work. Suggestions at this early stage were the park at the end of Mt. Richardson Road in Sandy Hook, the Grey Creek Trail, and possibility the SC Trails project.

- b. All work within Sechelt must be in accordance with guidance and rules set by the District and particularly the Parks Department.
- c. Such work must not affect the ongoing upkeep and other work in the prime area – the Groves - so extra work parties or work gangs should be considered. Some new Trailbuilders might be recruited for the Deerhorn project at least (must pay first year membership!).
- d. Some costs may be covered by the Groves budget but major items should look at raising outside funds.
- e. An estimate will be sought on the costs of the removal of the junk Alder trees to allow for: more sunlight, a better trail, plantings and the growth of desirable evergreens.

Damien Wallbank moved and it was seconded by Ken Hall:

That the President draw up a full motion for the majority approval of the entire Board in an online Board meeting. The motion would ask for a plan and feasibility investigation and thereafter, assuming positive results, the Society would adopt Deerhorn Park as an official project with the motion including mandatory requirements for the project to proceed.

A vote was called and the motion was carried unanimously.

With that the floor was opened for suggestions and comments and there was pleasant and fun conversation on many issues related to the Groves and the Society.

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.



Mon 06/04/2015 8:26 AM

Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>

Board Meeting

To Robert D'Arcy (rdarcy@dccnet.com)

This email is hereby officially an online Board meeting of the Sechelt Groves Society called by the President, Robert D'Arcy this 3rd day of April, 2015.

Agenda:

1. It is formerly agreed that the Society Officers for the 2015 to 2017 term are as follows:

President: Bob D'Arcy

Vice President: Doug Smith

Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Davidson

Directors:

Rupert Clark -- Michael Siddall -- -- Mike Sutcliffe – Lou Janke.

Moved by: Robert D'Arcy **Seconded by** Michael Davidson

Responses received and filed in President's email archives:

In favour: Doug Smith, Rupert Clark, Michael Siddall, Mike Sutcliffe, Lou Janke,

Passed

Sechelt Groves Society - General Expense
Final 2014 Financial Statement
 Updated: March 15, 2014

Opening Balance January 1/14 = \$8,417.93

Income

GENERAL INCOME

Annual Memberships	\$680.00	
Memberships held at PayPal	\$0.00	
Over Annuals & Donations	\$1,935.00	
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	
	\$2,615.00	\$11,032.93

Expenses

GENERAL EXPENSES

PayPal Deductions	\$40.65	
Registration (society) costs	\$40.00	
Misc. Groves Materials	\$2,372.90	
Gifts Given	\$1,841.66	
Licenses/Permits/Memberships	\$215.00	
Meet and Greet	\$0.00	
Printing, Office, etc.	\$846.37	
Website - domain name 2 years	\$0.00	
Bank Services	\$45.00	
Plaques and Benches	\$123.45	
	\$5,525.03	\$5,525.03

Close of 2014 **OVERALL BALANCE** \$5,507.90

IN BANK

Regular Balance----->>	\$5,507.90	
Held at PayPal	\$0.00	
Actually in Royal Bank	\$5,507.90	

Sechelt Groves Society - General Expense
Interim 2015 Financial Statement
Updated: March 31, 2015

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

Income

GENERAL INCOME

Annual Memberships	\$400.00	
Memberships held at PayPal	\$30.00	
Over Annuals & Donations	\$1,105.00	
Over Annuals Held at PayPal	\$0.00	
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	
	\$1,685.00	\$7,192.90

Expenses

GENERAL EXPENSES

PayPal Deductions	\$35.67	
Registration (society) costs	\$0.00	
Misc. Groves Materials	\$0.00	
Gifts Given	\$0.00	
Licenses/Permits/Memberships	\$40.00	
Meet and Greet	\$0.00	
Printing, Office, etc.	\$39.69	
Website - domain name 2 years	\$0.00	
Bank Services	\$11.25	
Plaques and Benches	\$0.00	
	\$126.61	\$126.61

OVERALL BALANCE \$7,066.29

IN BANK

Regular Balance----->>	\$7,066.29	
Held at PayPal	-\$30.00	
Actually in Royal Bank	\$7,036.29	