

Hidden Grove Plan

Steering Committee

January 17, 2008

Terry Hind
Chair
Community Forest Advisory Committee

Dear Terry,

Thank you for including myself and Gray Waddell from the Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee on your field trip last Saturday, January 12th. We are particularly appreciative of the sensitivity your group displayed in it's approach to the proposed cut block bordering the Hidden Grove. We will continue to stay on the lookout for any potential recruits for your committee from this area.

As we discussed, I have assembled some documents that should prove helpful in crafting a support letter. I have divided them into five categories:

1. District of Sechelt efforts to protect Hidden Grove from logging
2. Support documents from other sources including letters from MLA's and the Sechelt Indian Band
3. SCR D Strategic Parks Master Plan documents
4. Land for Nature "Environmentally Important Sites and Streams on the Sunshine Coast" references and map
5. Miscellaneous: Tourism/Recreation Map
News Articles
Certificate of Appreciation, Ministry of Forests
Trails Maintenance Agreement – MoF, DoS, SHCA

In the back pocket is a sample letter of support along with the pertinent CFAC meeting minutes.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee.

Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee

Per:

Michael Davidson
(Director)
[604] 885-3797

REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4
Email: hiddengrove@sechelt.net Web Site: <http://hiddengrove.info>
Phone: 604-885-5766

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#201-5606 Wharf Avenue, Sechelt, British Columbia, V0N 3A0

January 20, 2008

Bob D'Arcy
Chair
Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee
5866 Deerhorn,
Sechelt, B.C. V0N3A4

Dear Mr. D'Arcy and the Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee,

Thank you for your presentation about the Hidden Grove park plan before the CFAC committee of the Sechelt Community Forest on February 6, 2007.

I thought that the questions and answers following the presentation were good. A concern was raised about the liability issues.

Later in that meeting, CFAC members made a recommendation that it would send a letter to Hidden Grove saying that it had made and passed a motion for SCPI's support in principle.

The motion duly made and seconded was resolved that:
A recommendation to the Board of Directors of SCPI to support the Hidden Grove park plan conditional on due diligence by Hidden Grove be and is hereby approved.

I enclose a copy of the meeting notes.

Sincerely,
COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Per:

Terry Hind
Chair

Encls.

Hidden Grove Plan

Steering Committee

June 18, 2008

Frank Ullmann
Recreation Officer
South Coast Recreation District
Recreation Sites and Trails Branch
Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts
4885 Cherry Creek Rd.
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 8E9

Dear Frank,

Thank you for taking time out of your hectic schedule to meet with me in Sechelt last Thursday. We had no idea that you had to cover such a huge geographic area!

Our group is following up on your suggestion about involving the District of Sechelt as the proponent for the parking lot and handicap trail permits, as they are more technical in nature. In the meantime, we would like to see all three permits continue to be processed.

We are eagerly anticipating your July visit to the Hidden Grove itself and any further suggestions that it may generate.

Sincerely,
Sandy Hook Community Association Hidden Grove Steering Committee

Per: Michael Davidson

[604]885-3797

**REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4
Email: hiddengrove@sechelt.net Web Site: <http://hiddengrove.info>
Phone: 604-885-5766**

Hidden Grove Plan

Steering Committee

July 28, 2008

Chief and Council
Sechelt Indian Band
Highway 101
Sechelt BC

Dear Chief and Council:

Thank you for your support for the Hidden Grove Legacy and the kind letter you wrote years ago – a copy of which is attached. The Sechelt Band was the first to receive a request from our Sandy Hook community association trails group asking for endorsement.

Our group has recently submitted three proposals to the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts (sent to Frank Uhlmann) for permission to build a parking lot, a handicap/toddler trail and hiking trail in the Hidden Grove. This is a vital step in making the Hidden Grove accessible to everyone.

As part of the application process, the Ministry is sending you a referral which should cross your desk soon. (The number of referrals you receive must be enormous.) We sincerely hope our proposals merit further support from the Band.

We have been fascinated by the bark stripping accomplished by Dionne Paul and her students.[Photos are posted on our website]. Further, we have seen both the making of the headbands and basketry from the Hidden Grove bark, and also their use in ceremonial dances. We are pleased that the Hidden Grove has been able to contribute to the cultural life of the Sechelt Band.

Also included with this letter is the same updated booklet that we sent to the ministry. The main change is the elimination of mountain bike trails in favour of hiking trails.

We wish you the best, and hope you will approve these proposals which mean so much to us.

Sincerely,

Michael Davidson

REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4
Email: hiddengrove@sechelt.net Web Site: <http://hiddengrove.info>
Phone: 604-885-5766

September 9 to 11, 2008

Hi Claudia Ferris,

Just to let you know that approx 30-35 residents went on a hike last Sunday exploring Hidden Grove and the many trails that allow residents to relax and explore this beautiful area.

The old growth trees are just spectacular!

There was a very strong feeling amongst the residents that they want the Sechelt Community Forest to respect this area and not perform any logging, both in the short term and long term.

Basically they want a commitment from the CF that NO LOGGING will ever take place in Hidden Grove.

The Sandy Hook residents in particular are working very hard to have a "trail" designed and designated for "handicapped access" and they believe that the Province will support their efforts in this regard.

Perhaps as Chair of the CF communications committee you can bring this issue of protecting Hidden Grove to the rest of the CF board's attention.

Thank you

John Bebbington

Hi Claudia,

Further to my e-mail re: Hidden Grove and the Gentle Hikers

Please find web site address where you can view a short video of the 35-40 residents who explored the Hidden Grove area.

The public interest is picking up and perhaps you can use this feedback to help you with your discussions with the CF board re: old growth logging, etc

There are many old growth trees in Hidden Grove area that deserve protection and the CF needs to come out publicly and inform the Community of their intentions regarding any logging in this area.

Until this public statement is made, the residents will always be on edge regarding any possible logging by the CF both in the near term and long term.

It would be in the best interests of the CF to put this issue behind them and once and for all state publicly that there will be no logging of the Hidden Grove area and this statement by the CF should be clear about the exact size and area of the Hidden Grove forest within the CF tenure area that would not be logged.

From previous CF advisory committee meetings that I have been to over the past eleven months these meetings have left me with the impression that the operations staff are not in agreement as to the exact size and shape of the Hidden Grove area.

What is clear, is that the residents of Sandy Hook know exactly the size and shape of the area they want protected. This lack of clarity falls squarely on the shoulders of the CF.

This issue needs to be cleared up as soon as possible and public statements made regarding the protection of Hidden Grove by the CF board.

Thanks

John Bebbington

--- On **Wed, 9/10/08**,

From: claudia@productionmagic.ca

Subject: Re: Hiden Grove protection

To: johnwbebbington

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2008, 4:52 AM

Thanks John, I would agree that plans for Hidden Grove need to be made and should be on our agenda as soon as possible. I do know we have consensus that no old growth would be logged there, ever, but the rest of the area needs a management plan for the time past our probaltionary period. There has been a reluctance to deal with any areas that are not in plans for the next two years in our license as we would be spending time and money without any guarantee of having the license area in future. Clearly this does not work for the community and that is certainly fair. Thanks once again for bringing up the issues we need to attend to. We'll likely see you tonight at the public meeting.
Claudia

Hi John.....I talked with you about CF and Terry Hind on the Hidden Grove hike on Sunday. I thought you may be interested in seeing the two letters that I sent to the CF people. They were quickly composed tonight but I thought it best to get something off to them asap. Unfortunately I can't make it to the meeting tomorrow night. I hope several people show up.

If you are going to the meeting, please feel free to take copies of my letters, or read them aloud, or give them to Terry Hind, or make paper airplanes that fly around at the meeting. If you can use them in any way to help protect Hidden Grove, please do so.

Again, thanks for all your hard, energetic work.

Janet Lemmon

PS I find the beauty of Hidden Grove is haunting me. I can't wait to go back there!

----- Original Message -----

To: scpi@telus.net

Sent: Monday, September 08, 2008 8:06 PM

Subject: Meeting Tuesday September 9/08

Dear Kevin Davie:

I very much regret that I am unable to attend the Community Forest meeting tomorrow night at the Sechelt Library. I had hoped to speak to you about Hidden Grove in Sandy Hook. I had the good fortune to hike there this past weekend and I found it hauntingly beautiful and a wonderous place to spend several hours.

I urge you to help protect this unique area. It takes years and years, a very long time, to grow the thick carpet of green moss that covers the forest floor that is so easy on the feet and back for any walkers/hikers. All the trees, large and

small, all the plant life help to keep the air clean and the water table up. It is literally helping to keep us healthy.

Do you agree that well developed forests with extensive bio-diversity that are close to well developed residential and business areas should be protected?

Hidden Grove has very easy access. There are so many B&B's on the Coast, and specifically in the Sechelt area, that could send their many guests there. Hidden Grove alone could be a destination point for many Coast visitors if they only knew it was there to be enjoyed, and protected.

As you well know, tourists bring dollars.

Developing tourism on the Coast and protecting green areas/mature forests that visitors will enjoy makes good business sense; especially keeping easy access areas like Hidden Grove. And, walking/hiking there will also help keep Coast locals healthy and happy.

Please think ahead. Be a visionary. Protect this jewel that will give back to the Coast in so many tangible ways.

Sincerely,

Janet Lemmon
Unit 4 - 693 Corlett Rd
Gibsons, BC V0N 1V9

>>> "janet lemmon"

8:22 PM >>>

Dear Honourable Cam Reid:

I regret that I cannot be at the Community Forest meeting tomorrow night.

The following is what I would say to you and everyone at the meeting.

As a resident of the Sunshine Coast, I am asking you, urging you, to PROTECT HIDDEN GROVE in Sandy Hook. Please DO NOT LOG it, EVER.

This forest will give back to residents, visitors, and the local economy, wealth that will far exceed any logging revenue.

Sincerely,

Janet Lemmon
Unit 4 - 693 Corlett Rd
Gibsons, BC v0n 1v9

From: "Cam Reid" <creid@sechelt.ca>

To:

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2008 8:44 AM

Subject: Re: Meeting Tues Sept 9/08 Sechelt Library 7pm

Janet - thank you for your message. I did attend and observe the meeting where Sechelt Projects Inc outlined their plans. It is clear that there is considerable interest and support to protect this area and that message was very clear. The advisory planning committee are also aware of this valued resource. There are no plans to harvest in Hidden Grove.

Thank you for providing your comments.
I will forward this email to Sechelt Projects Inc.

Cameron Reid - Mayor
District of Sechelt

Please find copy of e-mails regarding Hidden Grove.

Mayor Cam Reid's response, while encouraging, does not state just how long the CF will refrain from logging in Hidden Grove.

Also, since the Province and the BCCFA are working together on their strategic 3 yr plan and this includes replacing all probationary CF licences across the Province, this may just be the ticket that Kevin Davie will use down the road.

Lets remember that besides being the CF operations manager, Kevin is also the British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA)'s Vice President and one would presume that he is involved with any of the talks between the BCCFA and the Province to eliminate the probationary CF licences.

Also, please be aware that I am making a presentation this coming Wednesday (Sept 17th) at the District of Sechelt council meeting. If you can attend and show support for my push for more public transparency with the CF this would be appreciated.

I plan to issue a group e-mail asking residents to come out on Wednesday and show support for democracy as it directly relates to the closed door policy of the Sechelt community forest.

Thanks

John Bebbington

5. Correspondence

5.1. Referral Letter from Frank Ullman, Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture Kevin acknowledged receipt of this e-mail concerning an application for a handicapped trail into Hidden Grove and the construction of a parking lot off of the East Porpoise Bay Road.

Kevin explained he would need to complete a site visit and have further discussions with the SCPI Board. He stated there were established standards for trails and there were no reasons not to support this proposal. He also stated that he did not know whether the parking lot construction was within the jurisdiction of Highways or the District of Sechelt. Kevin will talk to Michael Davidson about these proposals.

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Minutes of the Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) Meeting
Community Meeting Room, Sechelt, October 21, 2008

Comments from the members included:

- This is the best laid out handicapped trail project for the Sunshine Coast
- The option has been thoroughly investigated and it is doable
- Good group and a good cause
- The group is not asking to restrict forest practices
- Support in principle but what about funding?
- Involves more than just trails, includes a boardwalk
- Support the proposal for Hidden Grove.

The Chair announced unanimous CFAC support for the handicapped trail into Hidden Grove.

5.2. Big Tree on the Crowston Lake Loop Trail

Kevin stated he had only received the map on this proposal but there was no problem with trails in general. It was confirmed that the Sunshine Coast Regional District had filed the Section 57 application for this trail and there were no potential cut blocks planned for this area as it had been set aside in the SCPI Operational Plan. Kevin also outlined standard operating practices for trails in cut blocks was to clean them up.

ACTIONS:

- (a) Kevin will complete a site visit for the handicapped trail at Hidden Grove**
- (b) Kevin will follow-up on the construction of the proposed parking lot off of East Porpoise Bay Road**
- (c) Kevin will clarify the details on the Crowston Lake Loop Trail.**

Question for All Candidates Meeting from Hidden Grove Legacy Plan Committee.

This question is directed specifically at the candidates for the Mayor of Sechelt although comment from councillor candidates would be welcomed.

District Lot DL 3006 is better known now as Hidden Grove but since the formation of the District of Sechelt it has been zoned as Parks and Open Spaces. In 2001 and 2002 the District attempted to obtain this lot from the provincial government but failed due to Provincial reorganization at the time. In 2002 the Council asked the Sandy Hook Community Association to form a committee to create the comprehensive Hidden Grove Legacy Plan. And in 2003 this was presented by the District to Lands and Water and to the MoF. Through 2005 the province stalled but during that period support in writing was received from the Sechelt Indian Band and many, many community groups in Sechelt and outside of it. In 2005 and 6 the Community Forest– SCPI - came into play and again due to MoF map errors the Hidden Grove was included in it. A 5 year moratorium on logging was obtained from SCPI but that runs out in 2011. The SCPI advisory committee have issued written support of Hidden Grove Plan and recognize it benefit all of the Sunshine Coast, including the handicapped, the Indian Band, the local communities, the tourist trade and its industry of B&BS and other services. All of these need certainty about Hidden Grove.

Would you, if elected Mayor on November 15th, do everything in your power to protect Hidden Grove and advance the District plans for it including re-approaching the Province again... and again to obtain proper District control of the Lot and, most importantly, exercise your authority as the spokesperson for the sole shareholder of SCPI by instructing the SCPI board that Hidden Grove is off limits for any logging activity by them or any entity they control or contract?

Hidden Grove Committee Presentation Introduction for December 16th, 2008 – read by Bob D’Arcy and Michael Davidson

Good evening Madam Chairperson, members of the Advisory committee and guests. Thank you very much for this opportunity to address you.

For those who do not know I am Bob D’Arcy, chair of the longstanding Hidden Grove committee. I will not repeat the history - it is online at our website - hiddengrove.info. Everyone wants the Hidden Grove saved from any logging except for a very few members of SCPI. Yes, there are some SCPI folks who want it saved forever. But except for a gratefully received interim moratorium on logging until 2011 we have made little progress in finalizing the status of Hidden Grove.

Since 2001 the committee has continued to work for a formal ceding of the land to the District for a natural and interpretive recreation area. The list of supporters for Hidden Grove is long and includes: of course, the District of Sechelt but also The Sechelt Indian Band, The SCCA, our MLA, and, yes, this Advisory committee in writing on January 20th. So why are we here today?

Michael Davison, a hardworking member of our committee, will go into some detail on a couple of issues but I will just highlight two things now.

We have a new Mayor and council who, during the election process, expressed their support for the Hidden Grove but we know it is going to take them some time to get on the ground and running. Certainly we will be approaching them for changes in the Community Forest as it relates to Hidden Grove at the first reasonable opportunity.

In the meantime we need to emphasize that a continuing expression by the prior Mayor was wrong and completely misleading. He suggested over and over that the boundaries of the Hidden Grove were not clearly determined. That is just not true. The boundaries were clearly set out: in the maps for the formation of the District in 1986; the OCP and maps of it; the Hidden Grove plan formally adopted by the District; by all of the supporters, and; in every map or presentation ever made. There has never been any alternate set of boundaries even if we wished they were expanded. If there are any grounds for the former Mayor’s statement then we would like to hear them tonight, and clear up this misunderstanding. We would like you to confirm the boundaries with your main board.

The next issue will be dealt with by Michael but I must report to you first. The activities of SCPI have recently caused an outcry in shock from people from all over the Coast. We saw a new Mayor elected supportive of Hidden Grove on November 15th but on November 17th, without any notice to anyone, SCPI splashed international orange paint and ribbons as markers for cutting around several Hidden Grove areas. We have been subsequently advised by Mr. Kevin Davie that cutting is to proceed soonest in 2009. How come? We understood that each year we would receive notice of cutting plans and we attended the meeting on this very subject in this room on September 9th. I specifically stood right at that wall there beside a posted map and asked loudly to all the SCPI reps about the Hidden Grove areas. I was told clearly - and others present heard the response - that there was nothing going to occur near Hidden Grove at all in 2009.

Many, many visitors panicked as they visited the Grove in the days following November 17th. Indeed, when I first saw the paint I called Michael to survey the placements in bit of a panic. Regretfully, I did not log all the calls I got yelling about how the “sky is falling’ and cutting plans appeared to be within the Hidden Grove but there were many and from as far away as Gibsons and one on behalf of off coast visitors. I was called yesterday morning by a resident who observed what appeared to be loggers going into the area from trucks parked just off Inlet Road.

Once again the “community” has been left out of the forest and we and our fellow residents of the Sunshine Coast find it intolerable. The lack of notice is – and we carefully considered this word – is disgusting and we believe against the explicit instructions and certainly the spirit under which SCPI is to operate. Would you please take this up with your main board accordingly?

To deal more with the painted areas and a trail issue I will now turn this over to Michael Davidson.

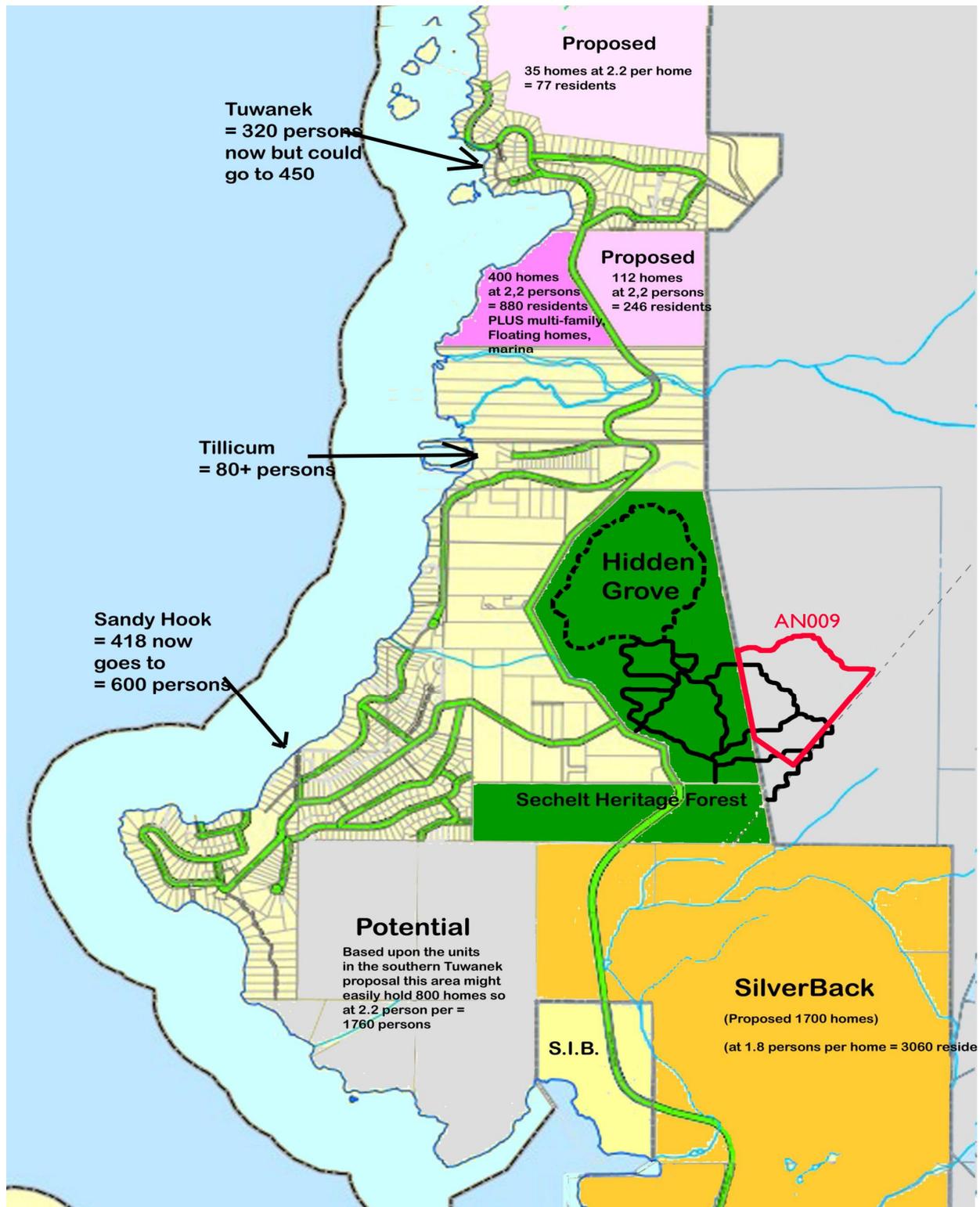
For those who don't know me, my name is Michael Davidson. I am a 16 year resident of Sandy Hook and have been working with many others over the past 9 years to secure permanent protection for Hidden Grove. Hidden Grove is bounded on the East by the DoS municipal boundary but the recreational use of the area extends all the way to the hydro lines, as the trails on the map indicate. The reason is accessibility. To my knowledge this is the only part of the Community Forest with high recreation value that is accessible by paved road. This use by the public is about to skyrocket in the next few years as the map shows [explain map areas and numbers]. These numbers only represent residents within walking distance of Hidden Grove and don't include other on and off the Coast visitors which swell considerably in the spring, summer and fall.

AN009 is not just another cutblock out in the bush. With its high recreation value and accessibility we feel it should be treated differently. Why the rush to cut this particular block in such a depressed log market? We would like to see any decision on cutting delayed until the status of Hidden Grove has been resolved. The new DoS council will be reevaluating the community forest next year, which may lead to a different basis for harvesting decisions. For the above reasons, we would like support from CFAC for a delay in any harvesting in AN009.

On a related topic, I'd like to bring up the status of our group's trail applications sent to Frank Ullmann at the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts 7 ½ months ago. These 3 separate applications were for a simple hiking trail in the north end, the proper surfacing of a handicap trail laid out by CFAC member Al Jenkins, and a proper parking lot, all of which were listed in the Hidden Grove Plan commissioned by the DoS and previously supported by CFAC. A referral to SCPI reached Kevin Davie's desk in the beginning of August. Previously I had hand delivered a letter to him letting him know they were coming, and urging him to contact me with any questions and to visit the Hidden Grove website where a full description of each improvement was included in the official Hidden Grove Plan.

It wasn't until 11 weeks after receiving these referrals that Kevin informed CFAC of their existence. According to CFAC minutes of October 21, 2008, Kevin said among other things that 'there were no reasons not to support this proposal' and that he 'will talk to Michael Davidson about these proposals'. The same minutes show CFAC unanimously supported the handicap trail. Six weeks ago I talked to Frank Ullmann and found out that Kevin had issues with the parking lot. Within days, I had redesigned the parking lot to use only the existing entrance and previously disturbed area, which addressed these issues without the need to take down any coniferous trees. This revised plan was sent to Frank Ullmann and presumably on to Kevin. The point here is that if the Operations Manager had communicated his concerns to us 3 months ago, or any time since, we would have addressed them immediately. In the words of CFAC: we are a 'Good group' and have 'a good cause'. We have a proven group of trail builders and businesses in the community ready to support these projects. What we have encountered so far from the Operations Manager is a lack of cooperation which borders on obstruction.

Increasing Demand for Recreation



Summary, as of December, 2008:

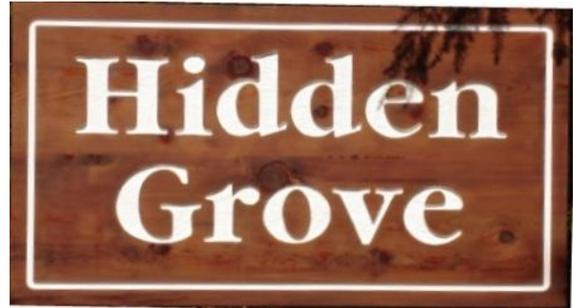
Current number of persons = Tuwanek/Tillicum/Sandy Hook = 818 going to 1130

Proposed or approved = 4263 for a total of 5393 persons PLUS Marina extras

ADD Potential area [west of Silverback] at 1760 for **Grand Total of 7153 residents**

-all within easy walking distance of Hidden Grove

December 16th, 2008



Some Important Steps:

-  Clear up any boundary confusion
-  Correct failures to communicate
-  Delay cutting near Hidden Grove
-  Encourage handicap and other trails
-  Extend SCPI moratorium beyond 2011
-  Help make Hidden Grove the Recreation site it is planned to be.

Some Nice Things About Hidden Grove

- abuts the Sechelt Heritage Forest
- easy access including for the disabled (wheelchair possible)
- unique combination of ancient giant trees, maple wetland and rocky promontories.
- easy parking at entrance to trail
- can be joined to current trail network to provide a mixed ecological experience for all.
- contains the headwaters of Davis Brook

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#201-5606 Wharf Avenue, Sechelt, British Columbia, V0N 3A0

January 20, 2008

Dear Mr. D'Arcy and the Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee,

Thank you for your presentation about the Hidden Grove park plan before the CFAC committee of the Sechelt Community Forest on February 6, 2007.

I thought that the questions and answers following the presentation were good. A concern was raised about the liability issues.

Later in that meeting, CFAC members made a recommendation that it would send a letter to Hidden Grove saying that it had made and passed a motion for SCPI's support in principle.

The motion duly made and seconded was resolved that:

A recommendation to the Board of Directors of SCPI to support the Hidden Grove park plan conditional on due diligence by Hidden Grove be and is hereby approved.

I enclose a copy of the meeting notes.

Sincerely,
COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Per:

Terry Hind
Chair

Community Forest Operational Plan: *“Harvesting of timber in the vicinity of trails may occur, and the management of the trail may include a range of scenarios including moving the trail, retention of buffer zones, moving the block, restoring the trail following harvesting, fall-away-yard-away or variation of post-harvesting retention density. The management of trails will occur on a site-specific basis rather than one policy applied to all situations.”*

CFAC Chair: - I noted that this would be a high visibility cut and will prove a great opportunity to show case to the community, superior forest management practices as stated in the Community Forest strategic objectives. **(Comment: Why do all CFAC solutions seem to involve harvesting rather than conservation for recreation alone?)**

Motion

THAT “Recognizing the extremely high recreational value of Hidden Grove to the community, a walkabout be planned for early January 2009 with Brian Smart, Warren Hanson and the community to resolve the management issue dealing with the circle trail through cut block AN0009.”

Community Forest Mission Statement *“To profitably manage the Sechelt Community Forest in a sustainable, effective and environmentally sensitive manner with broad community participation and support.”*

CFAC Chair: - I noted that the community needs to be proactive and understand the size of the Hidden Grove boundaries. **(Comment: This is a hard one to understand. The community and everyone but SCPI seems sure of the boundaries)**

Motion

THAT “In order to gain broad community support, the Community Forest should explore all means that it has in its powers to manage the chart area within the District of Sechelt, so that this area at the urban interface is preserved for recreation, biodiversity and wildlife, and managed for fire protection and safety issues.

(Comment: There are serious concerns with what was discussed regarding safety issues that make it sound a lot like logging but maybe selectively. Why can't Hidden Grove just be declared off limits for logging forever and the Community Forest support efforts to improve the recreational values set out in the plan adopted by the District?)

2008-12-19 - Pacific Davidson - Robert D'Arcy - Watch out for homicidal trees.txt

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert D'Arcy [mailto:rdarcy@dccnet.com]
Sent: December 18, 2008 5:34 PM
To: legacy@hiddengrove.info
Subject: Watch out for homicidal trees

Michael - this is in some frustration and feel free to forward it to anyone you want. As it is this is just going to the HH group,

After the meeting on Tuesday I got thinking about how 'Risk' is used to excuse almost any behaviour these days. Like importing sand for the swings in Sandy Hook park without any idea of how many children are saved from something by doing that versus spending the cost on many more parks for kids to exercise and be healthy. And so it was we listened to long talks about the danger of trees in Hidden Grove - every tree to be assessed and every tree to be 'cored' to see that it was safe and would not fall on someone. I never thought much about a tree falling on me - I figured the odds were astronomical that just as I passed under an exact spot a tree would choose to fall over fast and kill me. My have I been naïve! After some research I found out how naïve.

I could only find some decent statistics for the UK but I see no reason why trees are inherently different in the forests there. The big difference is there are more people there to be fallen on. Here is what I found:

According to the HSE's (Health and Safety Executive) draft Sector Information Minute, currently available from <http://www.trees.org.uk/consultpage.php> and <http://www.qtra.co.uk/cms/index.php?section=39>, the risk in any one year of being killed by a tree in a public space in the UK is about 1 in 20 million. According to my pocket calculator and rusty memory of high school level maths, if you buy 1 national lottery ticket each week for a year, the 'risk' of you winning the jackpot at least once in that year is 1 in 268 920. *****A regular lottery player is 75 times more likely to win the lottery jackpot than be killed by a tree in a public space. *****Total accidental deaths in the UK number over 12 000 per year. (<<http://www.statistics.gov.uk>>, dataset ST31721) About 6 of these are due to trees (HSE draft SIM) *****You are 2000 times more likely to die from some other type of accident than by being hit by a falling tree *****3 501 people were killed in road traffic accidents in the UK in 2005 (<<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablepublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/roadcasualtiesgreatbritain2005>>) *****You are around 600 times more likely to be killed in a road accident than by a falling tree IN THE PERIOD 2001 TO 2005 THE ONLY TREE DEATHS WERE EITHER A LOGGER AT WORK OR THE RESULT OF A LOGGER DROPPING A TREE ON SOMEONE. There were no recorded deaths due to a tree just falling on its own. At the meeting it was indicated that the testing and 'coring' was very expensive. I don't know what that means but let's just say \$100,000 to do all of Hidden Grove. Now for that 1 in 20,000,000 chance of someone being killed would it not be better to spend the money on new paths or parks or even give it to the food bank. I spent a career assessing risk and get kind of fed up with people throwing around risk management like they could save everyone from everything. It ain't going to happen. How will they explain the accidental death of one of the workers who is doing the 'coring'? I fear that this whole business was another red herring to stop Hidden Grove being the place we want it to be. I hope I am wrong and that it was just innocent paranoia.

Bob D'Arcy

2008-12-19 - Pacific Davidson - Robert D'Arcy - Watch out for homicidal trees.txt

Chair,

Hidden Grove Steering Committee

<http://hiddengrove.info/>

Preserve Hidden Grove

Linda White France

Last Tuesday, December 16, The Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) met in the community room next to the Sechelt Public Library. Representatives of the Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee were on hand to make presentations about concerns about the future of the area. Chair, Bob D'Arcy told CFAC members, "Everyone wants the Hidden Grove saved from logging except for a very few members of SCPI [Sechelt Community Forest]." He described working toward a formal ceding of the land to the District for a natural and interpretive recreation area. D'Arcy said that they had the support of the District of Sechelt, SIB, the Conservation Association, Nicholas Simons and he pointed out, "this advisory committee [CFAC supported this project] in writing on January 20, 2008."

D'Arcy told the CFAC that although there was suggestion by the former mayor, Cam Reid, that the boundaries of Hidden Grove were not determined, he said that in fact, "The boundaries were clearly set out in the maps for the formation of the District in 1986, the OCP, the Hidden Grove plan and in every map or presentation ever made." He also said that recent SCPI activities had been causing "an outcry from people from all over the Coast." D'Arcy said that without any notice, "on November 17, SCPI splashed international orange paint and ribbons as markers for cutting around several Hidden Grove areas." According to D'Arcy, operations manager Kevin Davie advised that "cutting is to proceed soonest in 2009." He asked the CFAC, "How come?" D'Arcy told committee members that from past meetings he had attended he had understood that nothing was to occur in Hidden Grove in 2009. He said, "Once again the community has been left out of the forest and we and our fellow SC residents find it intolerable."

Michael Davidson, another Hidden Grove Committee member, spoke next, and told CFAC that Hidden Grove is the only part of the Community Forest with high recreation value that is accessible by paved road, making it more accessible. He said, "AN009 is not just another cutblock out in the bush. With its high recreation value and accessibility we feel it should be treated differently... We would like to see any decision on cutting delayed until the status of Hidden Grove has been resolved."

Once the presentations were made, CFAC Chair Elise Rudland spoke of the support of their committee for the Hidden Grove project and she agreed that the area had one of the highest recreational values in the Community Forest. She put forward a motion to address the Hidden Grove committee's concerns, it read: "Recognizing the extremely high recreational value of Hidden Grove to the community, a walkabout be planned for early January 2009 with Brian Smart, Warren Hanson and the community to resolve the management issue dealing with the circle trail through cut block AN0009." In regard for the Hidden Grove representatives concerns, Rudland referenced the Community Forest Mission Statement, which she read, "To profitably manage the Sechelt Community Forest in a sustainable, effective and environmentally sensitive manner with broad community participation and support." Another motion was brought forward to address the preservation of Hidden grove. The motion read: "In order to gain broad community support, the Community Forest should explore all means that it has in its powers to manage the chart area within the District of Sechelt, so that this area at the urban interface is preserved for recreation, biodiversity and wildlife, and managed for fire protection and safety issues. Both motions were passes unanimously by CFAC."

HANDICAPPED TRAIL APPLICATION

2. PURPOSE

To establish Handicap access to the Hidden Grove recreation area.

3. DESCRIPTION

Work will consist of a 700 meter, 1.5 meter wide trail not to exceed 5% grade consistent with MoF HC trail guidelines.

4. LOCATION

In the Hidden Grove area of Sechelt, north side of Inlet Road, 100 meters east of Sandy Hook Road, the trail begins from proposed parking lot (see separate Parking Lot Application).

5. DATES

Will begin upon receipt of permit, with completion expected within 2 years.

6. USE

The trail will be used year round on a daily basis by local residents. Anticipated users include not only those with wheelchairs, walkers and canes but also strollers, toddlers and the elderly. Weekends ... Jackson Point.(same as parking lot application)

7. STANDARDS

Construction will follow MoF "Special Needs Trails" guidelines as in section 10.3.2. of their 1991 Recreation Trail Management publication or the current equivalent.

8. CAPABILITY – COMMITMENT

(same as parking lot application)

PARKING LOT APPLICATION

2. PURPOSE

To provide safe and adequate parking for users of the existing and proposed Hidden Grove trails network, including a new handicap trail.

3. DESCRIPTION

Parking lot would be gravel, roughly 18x50 meters (see attachment for detailed description and drawing) with space for approximately 10 cars.

4. LOCATION – District of Sechelt

Entry and exit are from the north side of Inlet Road roughly 100 meters east of Sandy Hook Road, potentially using existing road into Hidden Grove as the parking lot exit.

5. DATES

Work will begin upon receipt of permit, with completion expected within 2 years.

6. USE

The lot will be used year round on a daily basis by local residents. Weekends, holidays and summertime will significantly increase use by tourists and other visitors. Annual number of user days would initially be 1500 to 2000 per year which might easily double with the eventual increase of 5000 residents from proposed mega-developments in the immediate neighborhood of the Hidden Grove (Silverback to the south and Jackson Point to the north).

7. STANDARDS

Parking lot would be properly constructed with road base, gravel, crusher dust or suitable pervious material. Efforts would be taken to retain any significant mature coniferous trees when laying out parking stalls. Entrance/exit to Inlet Road would be established through consultation with District of Sechelt (DoS) engineering staff.

8. CAPABILITY – COMMITMENT

Sandy Hook Community Association has a decade long partnership with the MoF to build and maintain trails in the Sechelt Heritage Forest (see attached Certificate of Appreciation) and a further management agreement with the DoS as well.