

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

Robert D'Arcy

From: Connie Jordison [cmalone@district.s
Sent: July 22, 2002 3:56 PM
To: rdarcy@dccnet.com
Subject: Draft Resolutions for July 17, 2002 Cour.

MOTION #15399:

That staff request the Sandy Hook Community Association be request to prepare a par development concept plan for that part of District Lot 3006 to be included in an application for a Crown Grant. CARRIED

MOTION #15400:

That staff time be made available to prepare drawings and a budget estimate based on the concept plan for submission to the Provincial Government. CARRIED

The Sunshine Coast Forest District has advised that this area is within Forest Licence A19220 held by International Forest Products Limited and under the administration of the Ministry of Forests. The land you are interested in must be removed from this forest licence prior to LWBC giving further consideration to issuing you tenure for this area. This procedure may take some time; therefore, we cannot approve your application at this time.

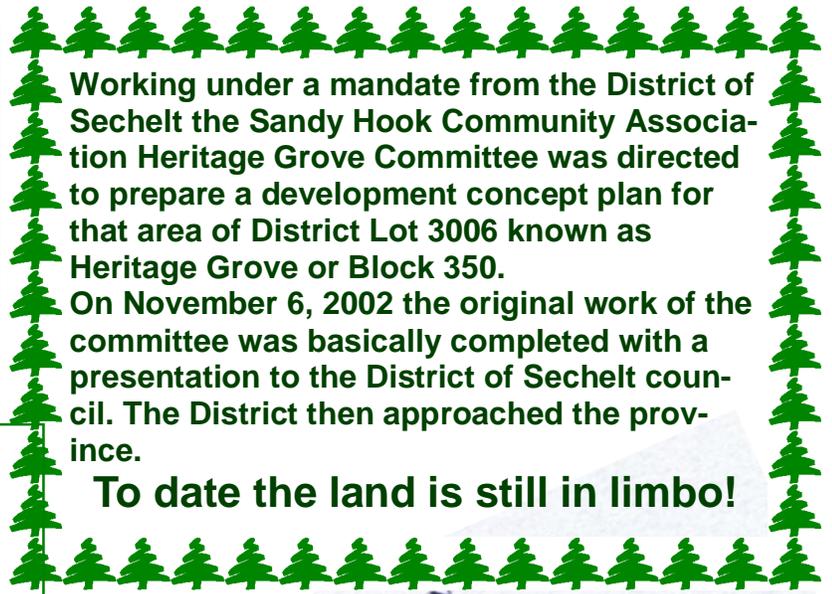
We will however reconsider a new application once confirmation is received that the area you have applied for is acceptable to the Sunshine Coast Forest District for the removal of Licence No. A19220.

You have my support, and I wish you success with your forthcoming endeavours.

Yours truly, Harold Long, M.L.A. Powell River/Sunshine Coast

Sechelt Community Forest Tenure Timber Supply Study March 12, 2005

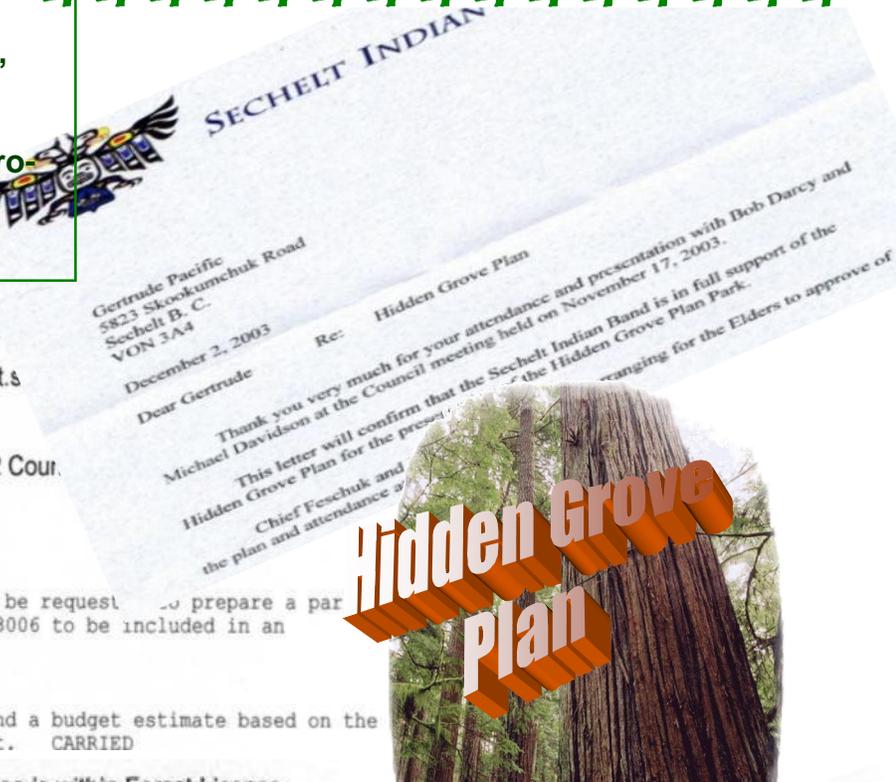
- 3. Further netdown of areas from the THLB for:
• Additional NP areas identified locally
• Hidden Grove recreation area



Working under a mandate from the District of Sechelt the Sandy Hook Community Association Heritage Grove Committee was directed to prepare a development concept plan for that area of District Lot 3006 known as Heritage Grove or Block 350.

On November 6, 2002 the original work of the committee was basically completed with a presentation to the District of Sechelt council. The District then approached the province.

To date the land is still in limbo!



Hidden Grove Plan

INTERFOR Coastal Woodland Campbell River
September 15, 2003
I can confirm that Hidden Grove in Sechelt. I can confirm that Hidden Grove is "not in Interfor's development plan now or in the future."

District of Sechelt
March 26, 2004
I can confirm that Hidden Grove in Sechelt. I can confirm that Hidden Grove is "not in Interfor's development plan now or in the future."

Thank you for your letter of August 27, 2003 concerning Hidden Grove in Sechelt. I can confirm that Hidden Grove is "not in Interfor's development plan now or in the future."

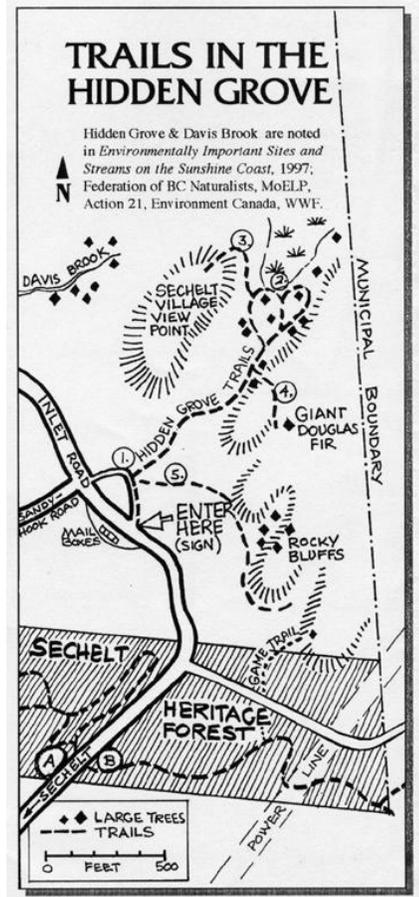
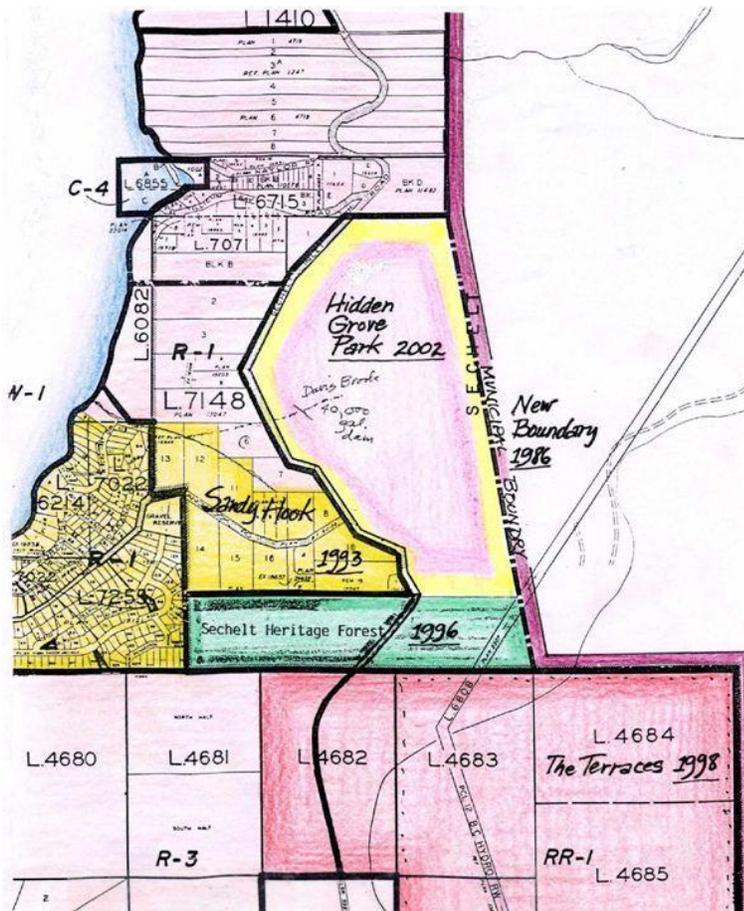


Nicholas Simons, M.L.A. (Powell River-Sunshine Coast)

Cameron Reid, Mayor

**A Community Forest is more than logging. It is the development of natural resources in every way for all. This includes:**

1. tourism,
  2. recreation,
  3. education,
  4. environmental goals,
  5. first nations relationships
  6. Facilities for the Handicapped
  7. Family areas
- Hidden Grove incorporates ALL of these values in one compact area easily accessible by road including bike paths as well.**



### Hidden Grove Legacy

Approach	Strategies	Outcomes of The Hidden Grove Legacy	Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmentally sensitive and conscious</li> <li>• Sustainable and adaptable</li> </ul>	<b>Recreational</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiking trails (including wheelchair accessible) that highlight old and second growth forest</li> <li>• Area designated for beginner and intermediate mountain biking</li> <li>• Wetlands boardwalk and viewing bluff that maximize opportunities for bird watching, photography, sketching etc.</li> <li>• Designated picnic and resting areas</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect valuable green space and natural habitats</li> <li>2. Provide access to recreational and education activities</li> <li>3. Promote understanding and appreciation of nature</li> <li>4. Promote economic diversification through tourism</li> <li>5. Provide opportunities for community engagement and volunteerism</li> </ol>	Preserve and develop Hidden Grove Legacy as accessible wilderness for use by current and future generations of Sunshine Coast residents and visitors
	<b>Educational</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guided nature tours for visitors and residents</li> <li>• Field trips for local school children</li> <li>• Informational and interactive website</li> <li>• Community service and learning opportunities for youth</li> </ul>		
	<b>Cultural and Spiritual</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meditation and yoga</li> <li>• Traditional plant gathering (by First Nations)</li> </ul>		



Michael Davidson  
Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee  
Sechelt, BC

Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 2005



Dear Mr. Davidson and Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee,

From the initial assessment, the land is very suitable and could be considered for both of our courses as a future fieldwork site. We are looking for community organization such as yours to partner up with for the creation of new mountain bike and multi-user trails on the Sunshine Coast and are excited at the potential that Hidden Grove can offer.

Given the District's application to the MFR for a Community Forest designation, consideration of the Crown grant will be deferred until a decision is made on the Community Forest. Staff will continue to work cooperatively with the District, the MFR and the Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee to identify a form of land tenure which can serve a broad range of interests in the land, including those of the Steering Committee.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Julia Berardinucci, Land and Water Manager, at (604) 586-4420.

Sincerely,

Pat Bell  
Minister

**Current Status and Presenting Problem:** Hidden Grove is designated within the Official Community Plan (OPC) of Sechelt as "parks and open space". However, it is currently administered by the BC Ministry of Forests as a tenured harvest area, which means that a logging company would have the right to cut up to 95% of the trees. This contradiction presents the main barrier to securing protection for Hidden Grove.

## 2007

**February 7** - We were verbally advised that the CFAC **unanimously** moved to advise the Main SCPI board to get behind Hidden Grove and help move forward with the trail building, etc. Wonderful news and we are very grateful to the board. At this time we will await the posting of the minutes on the <http://sccf.ca/> before making further comment or making further contact.

**February 6** - Your committee made a presentation to the entire Community Forest Advisory Board (CFAC) in the evening. You can read a short version of what your committee said

## 2006

**September 23** - Coast Reporter on Hidden Grove. **NOTE:** It went to press prior to the Sept. 21 meeting described below so did not have the latest developments.

**September 21** - Your committee attended the public information meeting hosted by the Sechelt Community Projects, Inc.

(the operating company of the community forest) (CF). The entire board of CF was there along with consultants. The audience was about 30 of the public. Noted was early attendance of Councillor Mike Shanks and later Councillor Warren Allan.

Expecting some hostility and stone walling we must say that we were wrong and that the meeting was conducted in a friendly and open manner so that everyone relaxed and got on with consulting with each other in a public Q&A session. Some answers were confusing but not deliberately so it seemed - they were just confusing subjects or the answers are tied up in government bureaucracy.

Your Chair raised 'what about Hidden Grove?' as the very first question and received some assurances of no logging but nothing iron clad. A second or third visit to the podium each time seemed to clarify the difficulties of the CF in dealing with the Grove. Apparently the provincial government has changed the responsible ministry and the rules of how the CF can form or manage or respond to the need for non-logging values are very unclear. Inquiries have not resulted in any answers yet.

About 25 minutes into the session committee member Gray Waddell suggested a **5 year moratorium on ANY logging in the Grove** while they sorted out the politics and provincial rules. Wonderfully, the **Chairman of the Board, Len Pakulak agreed** right then and there. Politely pressed he agreed that this would be in writing and that their understanding of the boundaries of the Hidden Grove were the same as ours. (we had maps with us to hand out).

That was the high point of everything for your committee. Subsequently we were given an opportunity to invite each and all the CF board to tour the Grove either in group or individually - just call. At one point Forester Brian Smart independently praised the Hidden Grove for its values as a gem in the forest adding to the certainty we gained for the area.

The issue of failed communication since August 1st was not brought up at all although there was lots of talk about transparency and the need for mutual contributing to the process. We came away confident that this problem of the past month can be solved out of the public eye through direct correspondence or by attendance at the CF meetings.

Your committee will be following up on this but for the moment it was a wonderful break through and we are indebted to the CF board for their actions last night. **A breath of fresh air has blown through Sechelt!**

**September 20** - Presentation to council has no positive results. Mayor directs unpleasant remarks at committee instead of at Community Forest. Reviews to confirm that they will take any action. Implies that committee was working without his/council guidance or approval, that committee is out of line to even be asking. See presentation documents.

**September 19** - advice received that CF may log northern portion in spite of Mayor's expressed wishes to the contrary. Separate advice states that District or Grove boundaries do not count according to senior CF board member.

**September 14** - Committee trying to get needed letter send follow-up but no response. In days that follow decision made that we must return to Council for their help to demand the Community Forest cooperate at some level.

**September 12** - Christine Wood interviews Gertrude Pacific and Bob D'Arcy for Coast Reporter. Watch for article in Sept. 15 paper.

**September 6** - Your committee makes a full presentation to Council. See draft. We were instructed on how to get the needed letter to begin work on the handicap trails and the school programs and follow on Thursday the 7th. More to come

**August 22/06** - Tour by Community Forest officials, Brian Smart and Warren Hansen -

**August 21/06** - Sechelt Band write up approved and pictures received from Band -

**August 16** - Your committee hosts a tour by representatives of the local schools: Debbie Amaral, Administrator of Student Support Services for School District 46 and Caroline (Kerry) Mahlman, Principal, District Aboriginal Programs and Services. It became clear immediately that there was wonderful value in field trips for students. An outing, botany education, education about First Nations and an environmental experience.

**July** - layout and initial clearing of trails that will be wheel chair accessible was done and survey by volunteer equipment operator/supplier

**June/July** - Volunteers worked on alternate trails primarily in the southern portion with a 'join-up' to the Sechelt Heritage Forest connector

**May 18/21** - Sechelt Band members strip bark from cedars for cultural use. This is one of the wonderful uses we envisaged all along for the Grove and now we have a special page to try and explain it all.

**March 24** - Nicholas Simons MLA writes letter of encouragement to Mayor Cam Reid supporting our committee. Thank you so very much Nicholas.

**March 13** - Sandy Hook Community Association votes up to \$500 to reimburse workers on Hidden Grove Legacy project material costs and outside services.

**JUST, HONOURABLE:  
TOO MUCH TO ASK?**

*The following letter was sent to Sechelt council and forwarded to Coast Reporter*

**Cam Reid and council:**

I live in Sechelt Village, and feel it is important to retain forested areas, especially Hidden Grove, one of the few areas that have not been logged recently and which is close to the Sechelt Village.

Volunteers on the Hidden Grove steering committee have worked diligently for almost five years to obtain a free Crown land grant. Following the same process, the Gambier Island Conservancy, through the Islands Trust Fund, has asked for and received (in less than eight months) an area two-and-a-half times the size of Hidden Grove. Both areas are part of the Sunshine Coast timber supply area.

Meanwhile, the community forest approach taken by the District of Sechelt has resulted in no protection beyond five years and no permission to implement the District's own development plan for trails and other amenities.

It's time for council to follow Gambier's lead and protect Hidden Grove before it is too late. Is it too much to ask to expect our council members to be just and honourable?

**Fern Walker, Sechelt**

Steering Committee – Sechelt Visioning Process  
John Talbot & Associates  
By Email

January 6, 2007

Dear Sir,

I am responding to your solicitation in the January 5<sup>th</sup> Coast Reporter. While I wish to be very clear that this is a personal submission and not on behalf of any group, as a member of the board of Sandy Hook Community Association and as chair of its Hidden Grove Steering Committee I am privileged to certain insights that may help you and the committee in your deliberations.

There is a possible blending of interests that might be taken into account in any plans for small commercial services and neighbourhood or community centres. Please note:

1. The Hidden Grove Plan which may be viewed in detail on line at [www.hiddengrove.info](http://www.hiddengrove.info) includes a requirement for an interpretive centre which would also serve as a picnic hall and meeting place for the Grove. This plan has been endorsed by the District of Sechelt and received support or compliments from numerous groups including but not limited to the Sechelt Indian Band, School District No. 46 officials, and Cap College officials.
2. The Sandy Hook Community Association has a long term plan to raise a community centre for use of the neighbourhood for meetings and community activities. Some locations deep in Sandy Hook are being considered but so too is the idea of joining into the Hidden Grove project for a common facility near the main Hidden Grove entrance. It is very near the entrance to Sandy Hook.
3. While there have been no formal discussions I am aware that the community of Tuwanek and the Tuwanek Ratepayers Association might be receptive to joining into an even more combined effort if Sandy Hook and Hidden Grove joined up. The Hidden Grove entrance is, of course, on the Sechelt Inlet Road only about 3 kilometres from Tuwanek.
4. When the Sechelt OCP was being worked upon in the mid 1990's the idea of some small commercial node at the turnoff from Sechelt Inlet Road into Sandy Hook was strongly supported locally. In today's more energy conscious society I am sure that this desire is even more strongly endorsed. That turnoff is less than 100 metres from the suggested Hidden Grove entrance.

No doubt you can now see where all this is going. I wanted to give you a heads up, in case you were not aware, of the possible integration of goals that might be possible.

When drawing up any plans or ideas for this area I think it would be very clever and acceptable to look at combining 2 or 3 or all 4 of the interests set out. I am sure that the Sandy Hook Community Association board and the Hidden Grove Steering Plan representatives would be pleased to meet with you and to expand or modify what I have set out here.

Finally, all of those that I know who have viewed some of your work to date feel it is highly commendable and pray that it will be adopted and acted upon by the District. Thank you for you efforts.

R. B. (Bob) D'Arcy  
5866 Deerhorn Drive,  
Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4  
Ph: 604-885-5766

2007-01-28 - Sue Jackel - Michael Davidson, bob darcy, gray waddell - CMNS 154 2007 revised Jan 27.txt

From: Sue Jackel <suejackel@dccnet.com>  
To: Michael Davidson <kinzer@onelink.ca>  
Cc: bob darcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>, gray waddell <spiderlegs@dccnet.com>  
Date: Sun, 28 Jan 2007 16:07:36 -0800  
Subject: CMNS 154 2007 revised Jan 27

Attachments: CMNS 154 2007 revised Jan 27.doc

Hi Michael,

I have just revised the course outline for the communications course for mountain bike trail-builders. Here is the revised outline showing where you and Hidden Grove fit into the sequence of writing assignments.

I have you down for Feb. 14, field trip to Hidden Grove. Out of that I will be asking students to put the information they gathered during the field trip towards conceiving a real or hypothetical project involving the building of trails in Hidden Grove. Alternatively, they can sketch out a communications strategy, since they will have already learned how to do media releases and letters to sponsors for events.

There are 13 students, all men; they range in age from about 18 to early 30s. I have asked them to assemble at the trailhead at 9:15 on the 14th. The class time officially runs to 11:20, but it's flexible. Two hours should be enough, right? And if it's less, that's o.k. I have already distributed the maps from the website.

I appreciate your willingness to lead us on a tromp through the Grove. The students and I are looking forward to it.

Sue

**COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(CFAC)**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF CFAC held on Tuesday,  
February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Meeting Room, Sechelt  
Library Building, Sechelt, B.C.**

**PRESENT:**

Terry Hind, Chair  
Al Jenkins  
Iver Vincent  
Burns Matkin  
Lanny Matkin  
Anne Laite  
Elise Rudland  
Barry Smith

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Rob Corlett, SCPI Director  
Jacquie Cunliffe, Administrative Assistant(SCPI)  
Ray Parfitt, Director  
Bob D'Arcy, Hidden Grove Representative  
Gray Waddell, Hidden Grove Representative  
Michael Davidson, Hidden Grove Representative  
Ben Josephson  
Jason Hertz, NRAC

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:05 P.M.

THE AGENDA WAS ADOPTED.

**PRESENTATION**

The Sandy Hook Community Association and Hidden Grove Steering Committee made a presentation to CFAC setting out the background of Hidden Grove, the benefits of and the possibilities for Hidden Grove and a request for the Community Forest to partner with Hidden Grove with the ultimate goal to have the area removed from the Community Forest.

A series of questions and answers followed the presentation. The area in question is 136 acres. Liability issues were raised.

The presentation concluded at 7:45 p.m.

MOTION:

**UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED IT 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.

MOTION:

**UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** a recommendation to the Board of Directors of SCPI to consider the services of a contractor to undertake a recreational plan for the Community Forest be and is hereby approved.

**Recommendation:**

CFAC will send a letter to Hidden Grove saying that they made a motion for SCPI's support in principal.

**MINUTES**

MOTION:

**UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the meeting held on January 23, 2007 be and are hereby approved.

**SCPI OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Kevin Davie was unable to attend the meeting.

Concern was expressed that the 4 cut blocks are now 40,000 M3 and CFAC believed that the total for the 4 cut blocks was only 20,000 M3.

A recommendation was made to table this issue until the next meeting when Kevin could respond to the concerns.

Rob Corlett gave an undertaking to speak to Kevin Davie and report back to CFAC by e-mail.

**NEW CFAC MEMBERS**

After discussion, it was agreed that one person should be the contact for new members. That CFAC member would provide the Terms of Reference to the interested party and invite them to attend a CFAC meeting. The current CFAC members would then hold an in-camera session to accept or reject that nomination.

MOTION:

**UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the nomination of Barry Smith to coordinate the new members for CFAC be and is hereby approved.

**MISSION STATEMENT,  
VALUES AND STRATEGIC OBJECTICS**

As agreed at the meeting of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007, the revisions to the Mission Statement, Strategic Objectives and Values were reviewed by the members who did not attend that meeting and after discussion, those changes were accepted. For ease of reference, the draft Mission Statement, Values and Strategic Objectives are attached hereto as Schedules “A”, “B” and “C” respectively, with the revisions marked in red as previously amended.

**TACTICS**

A continuation of the review and revision of the draft Tactics, from Part II, Subparagraph C, attached as Schedule “D” hereto, provided the following changes:

**Recommendation:**

To make the amendments marked in red set out in Schedule “D” attached hereto.

**Recommendation:**

Anne Laite will review Clauses B & D of the draft Tactics document for the next CFAC meeting.

**Recommendation:**

Table the draft Tactic document for review and revisions, from Clause B – Habitat Management through to the end of the document, until the next meeting of CFAC.

**GENERAL**

Jason Hertz, from NRAC, attended the meeting and spoke to CFAC members about promoting the non-timber values of the Community Forest.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Use Room, Sechelt Library Building.

**TERMINATION**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 10:10 p.m.

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Chair

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Member

## **Some of the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 presentation to the CFAC**

Following a very nice introduction by Terry Hind, Chairman of the CFAC, Bob D'Arcy spoke:

Hi. I am Bob D'Arcy from the Sandy Hook Community Association and the chairman of a duly constituted committee within that - called the Hidden Grove Legacy Plan Committee. So we are not a home spun group. We were formed at the specific request of the District of Sechelt and have been encouraged by them since that 2002 date.

We are here today because it was recommended by the Mayor and as the result of a direct request of the CCPI chairman, Mr. Len Pakulak.

Before we get into what the CFAC might do to help us along we realize that some of you come from diverse parts of the coast and may not be that familiar with where the Hidden Grove is. Simply, it is on Sechelt Inlet Road along the east side of the inlet across from the entrance to the Sandy Hook community just before Tuwanek. The entire area is crown land within the District of Sechelt and not the SCR. The hand out has a rough map on the obverse side.

It is important to understand that with the formation of the District of Sechelt this land was designated in the OCP for recreation and not for industrial or residential use. That mandate is the one we have been following up upon for these now 5 years. The history of the changes in provincial ministries and the changes in who is doing what to whom over the 5 years is too long to go into here unless you have an hour or two devote.

Instead of banging at the past I am now going to ask Gray Waddell to give you a rough overview of the approved plan and he will be followed by Michael Davidson outlining the support and the diverse interests encouraging this project. Then you get me again to target the current position and some possible ways forward.

Gray!

Gray Waddell then ran through the highlights of the 2003 approved plan.

Michael Davidson next gave a brief history of the Grove and then listed and described the supporters of the Grove such as: Cap College, School District 46 teachers, the Sechelt Indian Band, The District of Sechelt. Publicity by Tourism BC and the local tourist bureau.

Then D'Arcy came on again.

The first thing I would like to make clear is what the ultimate goal of the committee is. It is to see the transfer of the Hidden Grove from the Crown to the District of Sechelt under a covenant as a recreational area. Then the full implementation of something close to the plan Gray told you about for the benefit of all. We are and will continue to seek ways to accomplish this.

In the meantime we now have the Community Forest structure as a relatively new player. From the community forest websites it is clear that one of the mandates is development for recreational and tourist use. Hidden Grove certainly fits those criteria.

We want to at least get going on the upgrading of some of the current trails and, most pressing, the installation of the handicap accessible trail for wheel chairs, walkers and strollers. As you heard, Cap College also want to get going on its bike trail laboratory.

At this time this would only require some official approval for the Sandy Hook trail builders group – another part of the Association - to get working - much as they do now under the umbrella of the District for the Sechelt Heritage Forest and some public park areas within the community.

We are aware of the meetings of SCPI and Mr. Frank Ullmann of the new Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Arts. We understand that one of the criteria is that trail building must be in association with local government and that your plan has to coincide with it. Well, we have the local government on board and they have a plan they have approved. A plan they have even put forward to the province on a couple of occasions. Liability issues have been raised and as a former insurance professional I believe there are several and probably simple solutions to these.

And so the bottom line for now. We would like the Community Forest to sincerely and passionately and with commitment join hands with us, meet with the powers that be and gain approval for the trail building to get going for now. Ultimately we wish to develop the full potential of the Hidden Grove as set out in the plan even if that is under a Community Forest umbrella.

We implore you to support this now.

What followed was an active question and answer period with many members of the CFAC contributing. Others there who joined in were Rob Corlett (of SCPI) and Ray Parfitt of the DoS.

We tanked the board and it was over about 7:40.

2007-02-07 - Robert D'Arcy - legacy@sechel t. net - Hidden Grove update. txt  
From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>  
To: legacy@sechel t. net <legacy@sechel t. net>  
Date: Wed, 07 Feb 2007 13:39:51 -0800  
Subject: Hidden Grove update

Just so everyone knows, we (me, Michael and Gray) made a presentation last night to the Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) asking them to recommend the Community Forest board support the development of Hidden Grove according to the Plan - get with us to get permission for trail work now - work to get it all out of the forest, all the good things.

We came away with mixed feeling about how we did but this morning I had a call from Terry Hind, the chair of the CFAC to say that after we left the entire group supported us and talked very positive about it all including the main CF board member present. They passed a formal motion recommending the Community Forest get behind us and help in most any way they could. The actual motion wording should show up in the minutes on the CF website soon.

Hind recommended that we wait about a week and if we have heard nothing then approach the chair of the CF directly for action. We will.

I have posted some of this on the website too. Just thought you would be all happy to know.

Bob

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**REQUEST FOR DECISION**

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**TO:** Planning and Economic Development Committee  
**REPORT DATE:** March 6, 2007  
**TARGET DECISION DATE:** **March 13, 2007**  
**FROM:** Planning Director  
**RE:** Hidden Grove  
**FILE NO:** 30220-32 Crown Land

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**PURPOSE**

To designate a recreation area in the Hidden Grove area of the Sandy Hook neighborhood.

**OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES**

- 1 That Council request that the Bureau of Integrated Land management designate the west half of DL 3006 as a UREP (Use for Recreation Enjoyment of the Public) pursuant to Section 15 of the Land Act
- 2 That Council request that a Forest Reserve pursuant to the Forest Act be designated by the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Culture.
- 3 That Council re-apply to the Bureau of Land Management to have the west half of DL 3006 designated as a crown granted municipal park

**DISCUSSION**

IN 2005, the Hidden Grove Committee in partnership with the District of Sechelt prepared a park plan for the west half of DL 306, a 52 ha site in Sandy Hook. The plan was prepared in response to a proposed cut block by Interfor on the subject site. The Hidden Grove plan outlined a system of trails, viewing areas, parking, interpretive sites and tree protection areas to be developed in phases over the entire area. The old growth portion of the Hidden Grove comprises approximately 16 ha. The estimated capital cost of the improvements to the 52 ha site was \$297,000.

The application was refused by the Bureau of Integrated Land Management because of objections by the Ministry of Forests and the Sechelt Indian Band. The subject area has become part of the tenured area of the Sechelt Community Forest. In a letter to the Hidden Grove Committee dated August 8, 2005, the Minister of Agriculture and Lands advised that consideration of a crown grant be deferred pending the designation of the Sechelt Community Forest.

In February 2007 the Hidden Grove Committee appeared before Council and the Community Forest Advisory Committee soliciting their support for an application to have the Hidden Grove area designated as a crown granted park.

The Hidden Grove application would include the same proposal as that filed in 2005. The Hidden Grove Committee advises that Capilano College offers an instructor's course in the development and maintenance of mountain bike trails. The Hidden Grove area could serve as a candidate site for this use. The Hidden Grove committee also advises that a benefactor is prepared to help fund capital improvements.

Since the decision of the Ministry in 2005, DL 3006 has become part of the tenured area of the Sechelt Community Forest. If the Ministry of Forests was to reverse its earlier decision and allow the subject area to be removed from the Provincial Forest the Community Forest would have to be compensated with an equal land base elsewhere within the Provincial Forest. However if Council as the shareholder of the Community Forest was to support the removal of the Hidden Grove from the Provincial Forest no compensation would be forthcoming.

### **Park Issues**

The District has prepared a Parks Master Plan that identifies future park opportunities, beach accesses and trails. The parks master Plan does not prioritize park development. The Hidden Grove is cited as a potential park area. In January 2007 the District acquired the Goodwin property in Davis Bay depleting the parks acquisition reserve fund and parks DCC reserve fund. The Parks Committee has requested that staff prepare a development strategy for the Goodwin/Robertson properties. Council has identified park maintenance as a priority in 2007-2008.

The Tuwanek, Sandy Hook and East Porpoise Bay neighborhoods include a variety of parks including: Mount Richardson Park, the Tetrahedron Park, the Heritage Forest, Deerhorn Park, the Porpoise Bay Provincial Park. This broad amount of park raises questions about the need for a park encompassing the size of the proposed Hidden Grove. (i.e. 52 ha.)

### **Options**

Staff has discussed the Hidden Grove issue with the Bureau of Integrated Land Management and the Ministry of Forests.

As an alternative to a Crown Grant for a municipal park, staff proposes that the designation of the west half of DL 3006 as a UREP reserve. Under Section 16 of the Land Act, a UREP reserve is a map notation that designates the reserve for recreation use and prevents the alienation of the land for other uses.

Another alternative includes designating portions of the west half of DL 3006 as a Recreation Reserve under the Forest Act similar to the Heritage Forest and consolidating this with the Heritage Forest. Areas of no timber harvesting and areas with limited timber harvesting potential might be identified. The Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture has assumed the responsibility for recreation uses on Crown Land and would be responsible for regulating trail development in this area.

## **CONCLUSION**

Staff has identified concerns about the need for a 52 hectare Hidden Grove park and the impact this might have on the Sechelt Community Forest. This staff report proposes options to a park that would still allow recreation use in the subject area.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council requests that staff discuss with the Bureau of Land Management the designation of a UREP Reserve on portions of the west half of DL 3006 and the designation of a recreation reserve on the subject lands with the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture.**

2007-03-19 - charmai ne. cl ark@td. com - rdarcy@dccnet. com - Your Appli cation. txt  
From: charmai ne. cl ark@td. com <charmai ne. cl ark@td. com>  
To: rdarcy@dccnet. com <rdarcy@dccnet. com>  
Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2007 13:52:16 -0800  
Subject: Your Appli cation

Dear Mr. Robert D'Arcy:

Your application to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation on behalf of Hidden Grove Legacy Planning Committee in the amount of \$10,000.00 has been reviewed by the 00111 North Shore Chapter Advisory Board. We regret to inform you that at this time, the board is unable to support your request for funding.

We thank you for taking the time to submit the application. The TD Friends of the Environment Foundation shares your concern for the environment and recognizes that all of us have a role to play in making a difference in our community. While we are unable to be of assistance to you at this time, we wish you great success with your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Charmai ne Clark  
Coordinator, TD Fri ends of the Envi ronment Foundati on