

Notes from COCO Meeting of Thursday, January 22, 2015

Present: Councillor Reg Rankin; Mike Marriott, Safety Minded ATV Association and St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails; Catherine Klefenz, BLT Rails to Trails; Harry Ward, FBWHT and the Hubley Centre; Fred Dolbel, St. Margaret's Bay Seniors Association; John Cascadden MLRA and FBWHT; Scott Guthrie, CMC and FBWHT, Beth McGee, St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association and FBWHT

Harry Ward, Co-Chair of FBWHT, the host group for the January COCO Meeting welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.

Updates are as follows:

BLT Rails to Trails- Catherine gave a brief history of BLT Rails to Trails which began in 2000. AGM is slated for April 8. International Trails Day is June 6, with a trail ride or walk and a BBQ to celebrate the day. The trail is being prepared to accommodate the visually impaired. Catherine outlined what tasks and accommodations were required. It has been a most interesting learning experience. The improper use of bike bells continues to be an issue. Trail wardens try to educate here. With the advent of snow a portion of the Trails from the Anglican Church on Hwy 3 to the border with St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails has been packed down by snowmobiles. This will provide a hard surface for all modes of travelling.

For more information visit: blttrails@eastlink.ca

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust- Beth updated on plans for coming year which include republishing *A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road*, creating a video about the FBLWA, some water testing on the Nine Mile River. We are very pleased to be one of the 5 groups in receipt of monies from Bay Treasure Chest.

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday, March 25 at the Lakeside Community Centre.

For more info visit: www.fivebridgestrust.ca

St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association- The Bay Treasure Chest is an initiative of SMBSA. Beth outlined how the 50/50 draw is organised, who the five groups in receipt of funding are. The weekly draws bring an increasing number of players each week. The project has been successful beyond our expectations. Other work of SMBSA includes ongoing maintenance and education projects at Micou's Island. Troop's Island will also receive some stewardship time this year. The Our New Economy Forum was held on November 15 and a follow up committee is meeting once a month to carry on with recommendations emerging from the discussions on November 15

The AGM for SMBSA is Saturday March 28. For more info: www.heartofthebay.ca

McDonald Lake Residents Association-The latest storm did about \$2500.00 worth of damage to the Park. Residents are very interested in the Western Common Plan. They are continually asking about Phase one of the Plan and want to know what is happening. There is confusion about when Phase one began as there has been no communication about the WC Plan. (See Councillor Rankin's comments)

On Feb 3 -Flood Control Management all day conference

Also on February 3 is the Solid Waste Hearing at 6 p.m. at HRM Council

Seniors Association of St Margaret's Bay -Fred Dolbel gave an overview of the work of the Association. They have been working for 5 years to provide housing for seniors in the SMBay area. The goal is to help people stay in their homes and community as they grow older. There is a local Seniors Directory with over 400 businesses registered. There is a Seniors Info Centre located in the doctor's office next to the former Shoppers Drug store in Redmond's Plaza at the Crossroads (Hwys 3 and 333) Many enquiries are handled by 4 to 5 volunteers. Other supports to Seniors include a website, CC Net, monthly education meetings and Bay Rides. Heather Cochrane (902) 823-1296 is spearheading Bay Rides, a door to door transportation for seniors' initiative to be available for start-up in the next 2 to 3 months. A 9 passenger bus has been donated by TD Bank. It needs a place to stay overnight after the work of daily transporting seniors is completed. Please advise Heather Cochrane if you know of any garage availability.

Connecting Communities Calendar is open to any non-profit group e.g. recreation, public service, social, sports, church. The lead is Elaine Murray, Librarian.

The project is at the building participants stage.

The CC Calendar concept is designed to publicize your events, co-ordinate and avoid event conflicts

The cost to join the Community Calendar is \$10 a year. You do need one registered representative for your organization. You enter your own data.

For more information and to join: Info@CC-Net.org

Community Monitoring Committee-Scott spoke about an incident (recently brought to light) at the Otter Lake Landfill When there was silt run off from the ponds into the Nine Mile River. Mitigation by the operator occurred fairly quickly. There was a directed verdict over this incident.

On Feb 3 at the Public hearing about the Solid Waste points will be put forward about the proposal by HRM concerning Flow Rates and a raise in rate from the current rate of \$110 a ton to \$175 a ton. ICI pay two and a half times the residential rate plus a tipping fee. Public is welcome to partake of the opportunity to speak to Council. There are concerns about the current height of cells and the proposed increase to height of cells

WRWEO has written a letter to voice the concerns of their members about proposed increase in height to cells...

Councillor Rankin listened intently to the updates and concerns put forth. He spoke about the Public Hearing on February 3. The question was asked about Brunello Estates and what concerns that

organization might have about proposed changes to OL Landfill .Andrew Giles one of the principals at Brunello sits on the CMC .Reg encouraged us to write submissions with no more than 7 points, the shorter the better.

He also spoke about the Western Common. He advised he met with Brad Anguish yesterday to find a way forward. He will advise Tom Musial Chair of the FBLWA Stewardship Coalition of the way forward when it is known.

The entrance to Prospect Roadside of Hwy 333 will have the sign clutter cleaned up on the 2 kms to Exhibition Park. There will be a composite sign created for those who wish to have signs about their businesses. The cost will be \$200.00 per business up front and then \$20.00 a year .This will only be for Hwy333 (Prospect Road)

Safety Minded ATV Association: There is a cleanup slated for St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails.

Planning for Phase 3 of 4 for the FBLWA is underway with attention to be given to the 22 kms of the Fire Road and the 3.2 kms of the Connector Trail. Engineering and bridge costs are under discussion and will be obtained for the bridge over the Nine Mile River and one over the Prospect River.

Mike and his colleagues were given a HUGE vote of thanks for their work on the Old St.Margarets Bay Road as it passes through the FBLWA. He handed out pictures of the activities from their work parties last year.

Hubley Centre: Harry reported there has been a change of composition of the Board at the Hubley Centre. New activities include: Washer Toss on Friday nights 6:30 to 10:30 pm at \$5 a person. On Feb 14 there will be a dance from 8 to 12 pm, cost is \$10 a person. There will be an auction on Feb 28.

The new telephone number is 902 405-6511.For more info visit the website:
hubleycommunitycentre@yolasite.com

The **March COCO Meeting** is slated for **Thursday ,March 19** ,Host Group and Venue to be announced shortly.

Thanks to all who attended the Meeting!!!