

DISTRICT OF SOOKE
Committee of the Whole Minutes
Meeting held January 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 2225 Otter Point Road

Mayor Janet Evans
Councillor Rick Armour
Councillor Sheila Beech
Councillor Ron Dumont
Councillor Rick Kasper
Councillor Brenda Parkinson

Evan Parliament, Chief Administrative Officer
Marlaina Elliott, Director of Planning
Bob Kelsey, Fire Chief
Bonnie Sprinkling, Corporate Services
Manager/Deputy Clerk
Dave Devana, Director of Finance
Darcey Kohuch, Director of Engineering
Lisa Urlacher, Council Clerk
Ian Scott, Associate Planner

ABSENT:

Councillor Jen Smith

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

MOVED by Councillor Armour to approve the agenda with the addition of supplemental information received on January 7, 2008:

Letter – Sunriver Estates

Letter – Dr. Marie Peeters – Ney

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Developing a Sooke Sustainability Strategy**

Mayor Evans introduced Mark Holland, a LEED® accredited planner and a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Mark Holland, Holland Barrs Planning Group, provided a PowerPoint presentation and explained that the Holland Barrs Planning Group will be assisting the District planning staff with developing a Sooke sustainability action plan. Mr Holland overviewed the definition of sustainability and described that many commentators consider sustainability hard to define because of the sheer number of definitions of sustainability that abound. Mr Holland highlighted:

THE CHALLENGES:

1. Climate Change
2. Energy (peak oil, coal, nuclear/natural gas, renewable and biofuels)
3. Resources and Waste
4. Water

5. Ecosystems Impacts
6. Food
7. Community Health
8. Economic Stability

THE GOALS - Sustainability and Communities (MATRIX)

1. A Complete Community – Land Use
2. Low Impact Transportation
3. Green Buildings LEED
4. Multi-tasked Open Space
5. Green Infrastructure Systems
6. Facilities, Programs and Process
7. Economic Opportunity
8. Management Systems

CITY ROLES – Sustainable City Initiatives

Civic Corporation
Service Provider
Policy, decisions, regular dimensions

Mr. Holland provided examples of practices in other cities and overviewed the Strategic Planning Process where Holland Barrs Planning Group will be assisting the District planning staff with developing a Sooke Sustainability action plan.

Council asked how this strategy would interlink with the upcoming conference in March.

Mr. Holland responded that developing a strategic action-oriented plan would make Sooke a leader in sustainability issues and further described developing a plan as defining Sooke's concept of sustainability to creates a shared definition of Sooke's strengths and weaknesses as it relates to sustainability.

Mark Ellis, Whiffin Spit Road, described to Council that entropy (not being able to put back what you take away) should be considered when creating development because of the lack of land left to be able to produce food.

Mr. Holland responded that food practices and lot sizes are a very important factor and studies have shown that some people have no interest in growing their own food or are unable to maintain their land and that density developments should be strategically place to meet their interests, leaving the larger lots available for residents who do maintain and enjoy the larger sized lots that being the art of creating a complete community.

4. **Sooke Spirit of BC Community Committee**

Elida Peers, representing the Communities in Bloom Committee, the Sooke Spirit of BC Community Committee and the Sooke Region Historical Society together with the members of the business community and volunteers presented to Council a basic model of the Historical Flowline Project. Ms. Peers suggested the following areas as potential

site locations: Loggers Pole, Coopers Cove, EMCS, Reserve No. 1, Museum, John Phillips Memorial Park, Rotary Pier, Whiffin Spit, Woodside Farm, and various local businesses. Ms. Peers asked Council for their support.

Laurie Szadkowski expressed her support for the project and stated that her graduating class would be sponsoring one of the locations and suggested other ways to create sponsorship programs.

Randy Welters expressed support for the project and asked Council for their endorsement.

Scott Gertsma stated that Home Hardware is sponsoring three of the structures and would be maintaining the landscaping.

Kel Phair, North Star Plumbing stated that the piping and labour are being donated for the brass fountain statue at the Town Pole.

Council discussed the Flowline project and suggested that the Finance and Administration Committee add this item to their agenda to discuss a line item being added in the budget.

MOVED by Councillor Parkinson to recommend that Council support the Historical Flowline Project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLEY

5. **Amendments to Bylaw No. 292, *Fire Regulation Bylaw***

Fire Chief, Bob Kelsey gave a summary of the issues raised as a result of Bylaw No. 292, Fire Regulation Bylaw, 2007.

Council discussed the Fire Regulation Bylaw and had the following concerns: Special Occasion permits, the alternatives to burning, weather indexing and health issues.

Don Smith, resident, stated that according to the burning radius shown on the buffer maps he should be allowed to slash burn on sections 21 and 22. Mr. Smith stated that he does not support the Bylaw.

Joan Titus, Gillespie Road, stated that the indexing should be good prior to burning and suggested that Sooke look at the procedure that Duncan uses.

Lorna Barry, Sooke Road, stated that the bylaw is too restrictive for larger properties to dispose of the yard debris that accumulates throughout the year.

Dick Thut, Woodlands Road, stated that the days that the bylaw allows burning are too restrictive.

Ellen Lewers, Sooke Road, read and submitted her concerns and suggestions regarding the restrictions within the bylaw and read and submitted a letter from Dave McClimon regarding the restrictions within the bylaw.

Dave McClimon Jr. stated his opposition to the bylaw and asked Council to consider an alternative offered to the residents as compensation for the restrictions.

Tom White, Sooke Road, asked Council to consider the larger lots within the District of Sooke and the need for disposing the debris that accumulate during the year.

Shaun Welters, asked Council to explain the other alternative to Class A fires and if chipping is an alternative then how is Council going to deal with the infrastructure and increased trucking traffic that will occur.

Chris Rumsby, Westcoast Road, explained his frustration with the issuing of permits to burn.

Dave Mallet, Westview Terrace, stated his support for the bylaw.

MOVED by Councillor Parkinson to recommend that Council direct staff to amend the Fire Protection Service Bylaw #292 as follows:

- Prohibit the burning of Class "A " fires within the District of Sooke.
- Prohibit the use of incinerators or burning barrels within the District of Sooke.
- Allow an Increase in the size of yard clearing fires to a maximum of 2M by 2M by 1M (6 feet x 6 feet x 3 feet)

AND THAT Special Occasion permits be issued at the discretion of the Fire Chief.

CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Kasper to recommend that Council schedule a Public Input meeting prior to making changes to Bylaw No. 292 Fire Regulation Bylaw, 2007.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Janet Evans
Mayor

Evan Parliament
Chief Administrative Officer