

Shawnigan Residents Association

Board Meeting
Dinter House
September 20 , 2016
Minutes

7:10pm Call meeting to order – Grant

7:01pm Board members and Guests Present –

Board Present: Al, Grant, and Rod M.

Board Absent: Calvin, Jerrod, Rod. G., Dewar, Garry, Declan, Magen, Brandon and Earl

Guests Present: Kelly Musselwhite, Mar Martinez de Saavedra Alvarez

7:05pm Guest Speakers :

- **Kelly Musselwhite** reminded the board on the Foreshore Restoration Workshop Sept 24th and 25th , and advised approximately 70 have signed up....a very good response.
 - Kelly advised they are still going after the Aviva \$100,000 grant fund, and are looking for SRA's continued support. The successful grant application is based on community support through website voting. To that end Kelly is hoping to engage Dwight and Shawnigan School students given their extension and international social media contacts
 - She reiterated Herb Hammond report showing that only 20% of our watershed is an integrated ecosystem capable of supporting sustainable clean drinking water. Herb estimated we needed 50-60% of the watershed to be an integrated ecosystem to be sustainable.
- **Mar Martinez de Saavedra Alvarez** gave a PowerPoint presentation on the presence of milfoil in Shawnigan lake. Mar, Kelly and Grant took Grant's boat out and spent about 7 hours trying to observe milfoil along the entire shoreline of the lake. Mar will provide a report shortly using recorded notes Kelly took, but **Grant guesstimated around 60-70% of the shoreline has milfoil** growing with some areas showing huge noticeable blooms. The public, particularly the shoreline residents need to know what it looks like, and how to get rid of it.

It would be ideal if someone could take a kayak, in order to get closer to the shore than a motor boat, and get a more accurate assessment of the level of infestation.

Given the presents of milfoil in the lake now, spending extensive time trying to monitor and prevent boats entering the lake from bring more in seems like "closing the barn door after the horses have escaped". Milfoil is like Scotch Broom or Morning Glory, i.e. there is no easy fix; we have it now (and according to some we've had it since 1979), and need to keep managing the spread as much as possible. This will involve the community at large, not just lake front owner, i.e. some of the larger blooms are in

front of parks, and at the end of the arm. Clearly there are several lake front residents hard at work now fighting milfoil in their waterfront, but a coordinated effort needs to occur to ensure people know what they are looking for, and how to deal with it.

Mar plans to write an article in the Focus, but hopes SRA can convince its waterfront members to take pictures of milfoil they see, and comment on what, if any efforts they have undertaken to address it.

Residents should understand that milfoil, similar to willows, if broken off and left in the water, will stimulate more growth. So avoid operating a propeller through it. Pulling it from the roots is best, but at least trying to rake up the bulk of it, and drag it out of the water will help. It should also be known that due to its high nitrogen content, milfoil can be composted, and used in gardens etc.

7:55pm **Approval of Previous Board Minutes** – August minutes approved.

7:55pm **Review outstanding actions** :

- o **Action Al:** will ask Shawnigan School to once again allow us to hold our AGM in one of their facilities. He is targeting a Thursday in November.
- o Calvin presented the need for a calendar of event on our website, and the need to upgrade the architecture, or “platform” on which our website is built. The current application is no longer supported. The board approved up to \$2000 to be spent on both. Calvin will work with Jonathan to effect the change and report back to the board on the status and timelines, expected by mid July. – **Action Calvin:** reported work on the website is underway, including the “calendar of event”, and should be completed by August 17th. - Done
- o Bill Hook spoke to the need to know specifically on what contaminants are in the soil being dumped in our watershed in order that residents with nearby wells can test for the appropriate substances. Al is still trying to contact the Land Remediation Office, MoE to see if this information can be made available on a regular bases to the public. – Al will renew his efforts to get this data and/or make it available to Bill in his interests, and other affected residents. – **Action Calvin** will discuss with Sonia, to see if we can use political pressure (e.g. via Bill Routley) to have this information made available to the public. – report pending
- o Calvin brought up his efforts to promote a “stop illegal dumping campaign” using “Crime Stoppers”. Private and public property is often used by some to dump their garbage. This campaign is designed to elicit the public’s help through crime stoppers. The board supported this initiative, in part to demonstrate our interested in more than just the fight against the dumping of contaminated soil in our watershed. **Action: Al** will attend Crimestoppers next board meeting (e.g. Sept 29th) and discuss potential options, and get back to us. – it’s in Al’s calendar for September 29th.
- o Save on Septic – **Action: Garry** is continuing to pursue. The issue relates to Save-on-Septic not being paid for work they did at Shawnigan Station, under the direction of the CVRD, but to be paid by SIA. – report pending

- o Rod G's email to the board sparked some discussion. In short, Rod is on both the SRA and SBS board, and also reported on MoE's intention to just focus their water testing on a few surface areas. SBS suggested this was totally inadequate and also agreed with the SRA board that testing should also include ground water and sediment. SBS invited a water sampling company (i.e. LBL) to give a presentation (June 17th) to the SBS board to discuss options. Rod's intent with the email was to alert our board, and explore the option of SRA offering up some funding to conduct this added testing. SRA board definitely supports more testing than initially suggested by MoE but is committed to using our funding efforts to paying down our legal debt obligations. The board discussed option like encouraging new members to join the SRA, and get a discount on water testing of their wells, or lake water sources etc.; encourage people to target heavy metals like cobalt, mercury and lead. Calvin will discuss with Rod G. and Jerrod how we can get on the same page with SBS and work cooperatively towards a similar end, while still meeting our own obligations around funding the legal fight again the dumping of contaminated soil in our watershed. – Jerrod attended a meeting with the MoE, SIA and consultants, to discuss the ongoing testing of the surface water. There doesn't appear to be any money for groundwater and sediment testing, and Jerrod believes perusing them at this time may "muddy" the issue, and distract from the proposed testing. **Action Jerrod:** will follow-up with the independent contractor that MoE hired (i.e. Associated Environmental Consultants Inc.) and provide the board timelines on testing, and reporting out their findings. The board will then discuss what to do next, e.g. relative to groundwater and sediment testing. – report pending
- o **Action Calvin:** will pursue the idea of having a large gauge made up and displayed where the public can see it, i.e. somewhere in the Shawnigan Village. – report pending

8:00pm **Committee reports** -

- Legal Action Committee – Calvin
 - o No Updates
- SRA Governance Committee – vacant
 - o No Updates
- Membership Committee –Dewar / Julia McDougall
 - o Membership sign-ups have slowed down, and sits at 952.
- Finance Committee – Dewar
 - o No Update
- Fish and Habitat Committee – Jerrod
 - o Jerrod advised they were "getting the creek ready for fall coho run. We won't see the fish showing up until mid Oct. "
- Water Committee – Grant
 - o No Updates beyond above noted activities with guests on the lake
- Municipal Status Committee – Al
 - o No Updates
- Communications Committee – Al
 - o No Updates
- Government Liaison Committee –Garry
 - o No Updates
- Student Committee –Megan and Declan

o No Updates

8:10pm

Adjourn

Next Meeting:

Tuesday October 18th, 2016