

**Northwest Nanoose Residents Association
Director's Meeting Minutes (Approved 09/27/24)
Aug 26, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.
1616 Arbutus Dr., Nanoose Bay, B.C**

Chairman's Call To Order: 10:04 a.m.

Roll Call For Quorum: All 8 directors present

Approve July 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Moved by Neil Watson, seconded by Diane Springford & unanimously approved as circulated.

Treasurers Report: (Bill)

Interim report \$4,252.54 in chequing and \$31.35 in savings with draft letter to CCCU to transfer \$4,000 into a cashable GIC. Bill to verify with CCCU that we can take part or all of funds out of GIC within days of transfer notice. To Be Advised.

Membership Report: (Gerry)

Membership update for Aug. 26th, 2024

68 members for 3 yrs term

3 members for 2 yrs term

33 members for 1 yrs term

Total 104 Members as well as 1 lifetime member and 1 guest member.

Moved by Gina Marchi, seconded by Wayne Stark and approved unanimously as presented above.

Priority Committee Reports

#1) Property Taxes: (Wayne/Rick)

Wayne reported information derived from a recent RDN Survey that 54 of 63 respondents, to date, are seriously feeling the need for reduced property taxes. This Committee continues to monitor RDN Meeting Agendas and attend pertinent meetings dealing with property taxes and the 2025-29 RDN Financial Plan with next key meeting being Nov 3, 2024. Wayne Stark asked, at this point, to go "in camera" to discuss NNRA strategy, going forward. The Chairman granted this request.

A Committee Summary Report of "what's next" to be provided at next meeting.

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#2) Water: (Rudi/Neil/Gina) The subject of the Nanoose Bay Reservoir Improvement Project and Alternative Approval Process is now in the hands of the affected voting taxpayers. Early indications this Process will fail. Rudi Widdershoven advised there have been some unconfirmed indication Fairwinds Community Assoc ("FCA") may be in favor of this Project as it expands their community base and thus spread their property taxes over a broader source. Regardless, FCA has taken a stand similar to NNRA: make sure everyone is as well informed as possible thus enabling the member tax payer to make their own "best" decision. It was agreed to let this Process complete and just "hurry up & wait" in order to determine what action, if any, is next.

#3) Beach Accesses: (Neil/Diane)

#1) Neil Watson & Diane Springford have requested a meeting with MOTI staff in Nanaimo to discuss windfall/debris safety concerns recently raised by concerned adjacent property owners & NNRA/members. We intend to advocate on behalf of these members.

#2) Delegation status at POSAC's next meeting on Nov 14, 2024 will be requested. We expect to hear a RDN Staff Report & recommendations pertaining to proposed "upgrades" to certain identified accesses; #E-57 (foot of hill on Seahaven Dr.), E-65 (foot of Terrien Rd) & #E-66 (foot of Coastal Pl).

#3) This Committee sought guidance on how far should we go on any concessions towards these RDN initiatives. i.e. be careful what we're asking for! A discussion ensued that NNRA reiterates its commitment that these accesses remain for neighborhood not public access purposes, only. Should the RDN be granted a Licence of Occupation by MOTI, NNRA will need to "jump on" matters of how will the RDN deal with garbage/human waste management, traffic and any resulting private property damage.

A further discussion ensued specific to Access #E-66(foot of Coastal Place) that happens to be also adjacent to the Craig Bay Community. It was deemed prudent that NNRA put this Community Association on notice of our findings and concerns with the expressed intent of garnering this Association's support. Neil Watson to draft this letter.

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#4) Sign Boards: (Gina/Neil)

Nil Report- prototype for Board consideration not yet built. Committee carpenter now being freed-up from other spring/summer priorities. 😊

New Business:

1. Should NNRA be taking a Board decided and stated "position" on regional matters effecting our membership?

A lengthy discussion ensued culminating in NNRA's role being defined as really just fact checking and communicating on all governmental matters on behalf and to our members, first. By Board resolution, only, can it then be decided to "go public" and/or announce a formal NNRA position on a matter. Fact checking with great accuracy and to the fullest extent possible is thus a NNRA onus of responsibility.

2. Steve/Paula Chase, residents of Fairwinds and Area "E" activists: Is a bigger RDN wide taxpayer group be better than smaller resident's association?

A brief discussion ensued culminating in Rudi Widdershoven to reach out to these Fairwinds residents and meet to discuss:

- matters of synergy, common interest and possibly NNRA membership.
- Acknowledge and thank them for all their "heavy lifting" they committed to regarding the Nanoose Bay Reservoir Project and the pending Alternative Approval Process.

Correspondance & Communications:

#1) Recent E-Mail "Blast"- Review of list with email but not members

114 emails sent out

41 emails returned unable to locate

63 emails not answered

1 unsubscribe

1 replied they moved away

8 payments for 3yrs as a result.

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Correspondance & Communications: Cont'd

#2) Dave Jamieson's e-mail commentary on government funding shortfalls on infrastructure projects dated Aug 23, 2024,

Read as presented by all directors and retained for future reference, as attached. To be used as a discussion paper with Doug Holmes, CAO, RDN. Wayne Stark is arranging this meeting.

Next Meeting: #1) RDN Strategy meeting 09/19/24 at 10:00 a.m. @ Rudi's
 #2) BOD meeting 09/27/24 at 2:00 @ Rudi's

Motion To Adjourn: Moved by Neil Watson, seconded by Gina Marchi and unanimously approved

END

From: David Jamieson <davidjamieson@shaw.ca>

Date: August 23, 2024 at 9:29:22 AM PDT

To: dfumano@postmedia.com

Subject: Threats

Dan:

Sorry if you received an incomplete version of this email as I apparently hit a wrong key and it disappeared. I'll try again.

I recently retired as a director of a local citizens group which was set up as a vehicle to present residents' concerns to the local government elected representatives and staff. You are correct, there has been a significant deterioration in the relationships between we the people and those supposedly delivering and managing projects on our behalf. In my opinion the UBCM should put the cause of the discontent, not the result, as number one on their agenda: the out of control spending, project mismanagement, and lack of accountability inherent in government run capital projects at all levels; and the unsustainable property taxes that result. I do not need to remind you of the financial impact on North Shore residents resulting from the massive cost overruns from the waste treatment plan debacle(anyone fired yet?). It is clear to many of us that local governments cannot attract the staff capable of managing capital projects in a fiscally prudent manner(despite the extremely attractive remuneration and benefits) and that most elected officials lack any experience in major project management to provide proper oversight. It is not uncommon now for local government 5 year fiscal plans to include annual spending increases in the high double digits with no concern about those expected to pay for the largess.

No wonder people are upset when many find home ownership increasingly unaffordable with ever increasing property taxes a major factor. I might add, that the response of some elected officials and staff who suggest 'defer your taxes, get a reverse mortgage, or sell and move'(which I have actually heard) does not contribute to a good relationship!

The solutions to the problem are not obvious and certainly not easy. I recently had an interesting discussion with Dan Law, the mayor of Tofino, where a sewage treatment plant was just completed on time and on budget. He said 'the keys to success were hiring a private sector project manager and using a design build model where the team reviewed all aspects of the project prior to starting with the objective of looking for cost savings, we saved millions on a 67 million dollar project'. No residents were throwing rocks at these folks! Perhaps two Dans could get together and produce an interesting article on this matter.

Cheers,

Dave Jamieson,
Nanoose Bay