



VILLAGE OF BELCARRA
Tree Committee
Village Hall
Wednesday, May 22, 2019
Minutes



Minutes of the Tree Committee for the Village of Belcarra, held Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at the Municipal Hall, 4084 Bedwell Bay Road, Belcarra, BC

Members in Attendance

Begg, Mary – Vice Chair
Bramley, Les
Chapman, Sandra – Chair
Greig, Vicky
Struk, Deborah

Council in Attendance

Carolina Clark, Councillor

Staff in Attendance

Lorna Dysart, Chief Administrative Officer
Bernie Serné, Superintendent of Public Works
Paula Richardson, Administrative Services Assistant

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

2.1 Agenda for May 22, 2019

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda for May 22, 2019 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1 Minutes of April 17, 2019

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes from the meeting held April 17, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Unfinished Business

4.1 Tree Trimming & Cutting in Belcarra Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document

a) Chair Chapman opened discussion regarding the Belcarra Tree Bylaw vs Village practice. A Committee Member researched the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) jurisdiction regarding the riparian zone and permits required to remove trees. B. Serné noted that requests for any DFO enquires should be made through the Village office.

Discussion ensued with regard to trees on the foreshore where the removal may cause bank instability and changes to environmental provisions for shade and habitat.

It was noted that any amendments to the Tree Bylaw will be required to go to Council.

- b) The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) information document was reviewed. Discussion ensued with regard to clarity for the completed document.

Several topics were discussed including wording for whether permits are required, or not, for pruning, cutting, altering or removing trees.

M. Begg will revise the FAQ document and return to the Committee for review.

5. New Business

5.1 Tree Trimming Permit

- a) Possible recommendations for the Tree Permit Application

Committee members discussed the current Tree Permit Application. A possible change was indicated in the requirement for approaching neighbors within a 200 ft. radius to approaching only direct side neighbors. B. Serné noted that notice is required to allow neighboring residents the opportunity to speak on the matter of tree removal.

Discussion ensued with regard to removing the "Veto of One" objection policy in the Tree Permit Application. Further consideration may be given to forming a "group" to provide resolutions to Council with regard to Tree issues in the Village. Staff noted that the process for a report to Council is through staff. It was noted that a balanced approach with regard to views, tree protection and safety is the desired goal.

It was moved and seconded:

That a recommendation be made to Council to amend the policy regarding the Tree Trimming Permit as follows:

That the applicant only be required to approach direct side neighbours for tree removal and trimming; and

That the power of "Veto by One" (1) objection be removed; and

That the current application form be replaced with one which identifies a resolution process if there is an objection to the application and that a solution be proposed for Council to consider for a resolution process.

CARRIED

- b) Possible recommendations based on the information received April 23, 2019 regarding:

1. Riparian Rights & Public Foreshore Use in the Administration of Aquatic Crown Land
2. 2016 Riparian Areas Regulation Guidebook for Local Government
3. Applicable Regulations – Schedule F

Discussion ensued with regard to the current focus on knotweed removal by the Invasive Species Council. It was noted that ivy and laurel pose similar issues as these plants grow around trees and that removal is deemed

necessary to lessen the impact on trees. B. Serné advised that there is a casting method of invasive species removal that may be used near water which is costly. Chair Chapman noted that in conjunction with removal, there would need to be a planting of native species.

Committee members discussed a possible volunteer program to assist with removal of invasive species to reduce the cost to the Village. Further heavy equipment work would require hiring a contractor for removal of laurel trees, in particular, with care being given to keeping the bank stabilized in the riparian zone.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Committee recommend to Council that the current invasive species removal program taking place on the foreshore be expanded to include the removal of all types Ivy and Laurel.

CARRIED

It was moved and seconded:

That the following items be added to the final Tree Committee report to Council:

1. Recommend that Metro Parks be requested to enforce their bylaws with regard to no open flame barbecue or charcoal allowed in the park
2. Recommend the inclusion of the FireSmart Education
3. Recommend Riparian Education (FAQ)
4. Noting discrepancies in Bylaw 110
5. Providing a View Retention Policy for Village and private property

CARRIED

Committee members discussed the *Community Charter* and whether access to private land was acceptable. L. Dysart noted that this document provides the principles and fundamental powers of Municipal Governments. It was noted that the main goal for the Committee is resident safety. Village bylaws would require review to address viewscape issues.

It was moved and seconded:

That with regard to terms of reference on private property leave as status quo.

CARRIED

6. Next Steps

- a) Complete Tree Cutting Questions based on clarifications – Vice-Chair Begg will add clarifications from B. Serné and include Committee suggestions.
- b) The Committee decided that the approach to writing the final report to Council will be together as a group, with assistance from the Chief Administrative Officer.

7. Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Certified Correct:



Lorna Dysart
Chief Administrative Officer



Sandra Chapman
Chair