

**French Creek Residents Association
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2020
Parksville Community Centre**

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm under Provincial Covid Guidelines with about 30 people in attendance. A quorum was present (10 or more members excluding the Executive).

2. Greetings and announcement of chair.

President Rob Williams introduced himself as chair for the meeting.

3. Introduction of Board Members and guests.

Chair Williams introduced and thanked the other current members of the FCRA Executive – Mike Cook, Vice President; Jervis Swannack, Vice President; Barb Riordan, Treasurer; Directors; Lyle Hollingworth, Brian Coath, Pat Weber and Lloyd Sargison. He announced the local officials and speakers on the agenda; Cpl Jesse Foreman, RCMP Detachment, Parksville and Lehann Wallace, RDN Area G Director.

4. Approval of agenda.

Motion to approve agenda. M/S Mike Cook, Pat Weber. Carried.

5. Approval of May 8, 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes.

Secretary Jessen had recorded the minutes, vetted by Chair Williams. Motion to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting as distributed and posted on the Association website. M/S Lloyd Sargison, Mike Cook. Carried.

6. Presentations.

a. Cpl Jesse Foreman, RCMP Detachment, Parksville.

Cpl Foreman provided a general overview of community policing matters. This included crime statistics, communication with residents and property owners, police concerns relative to thefts, break-ins and items left in unlocked vehicles. General crime reports to police have been increasing substantially, year over year. The detachment currently has 38 officers which is determined by population for the municipalities. An increase of 1 officer will be happening tied to Qualicum Beach population. The officers determined for the RDN areas is a complicated formula and mainly depends on consultation between the RDN and RCMP. At present there are insufficient officers considering the overall population growth in RDN areas, notably French Creek. Central Island Traffic Control is located in the Parksville detachment offices and covers a large area including municipalities north and south of Parksville. These officers are not included in the general detachment officer allocation.

Questions to Foreman:

1. Have homeless people numbers affected policing concerns and crimes. It would appear there has been an increase attributable to these people.
2. Are discussions underway to increase the number of officers paid by the RDN. Yes, and in memory of current senior officers they cannot recall when an increase last occurred.

3. When stolen goods are found are owners advised. Owners are advised only if they have reported the theft and provided a description with serial numbers if applicable. Otherwise goods are disposed of by authorities.
4. Are stolen goods sold by criminals within our community. Yes, but in most cases this is unknown to police and goods are normally moved elsewhere. Sometimes police will find locations where stolen goods are stored. This occurs because thieves are waiting for same to ‘cool off’ before being sold.

b. Lehann Wallace, RDN Area G Director.

A detailed summary of Director Wallace’s presentation is attached to these Minutes.

Questions to Director Wallace:

1. Will there be any further action on a purchase of the Epcor water utility? No. In the summer of 2019 staff indicated it was too expensive to purchase.
2. We have heard nothing further on RDN plans to treat Sandpiper water. Wallace said the matter is ‘in camera’ at the RDN Board and she is unable to provide information. Second question, does this mean it is being discussed? Wallace said she cannot comment but there was a motion to move the subject to ‘in camera’.
3. Some general discussion occurred with FCRA pointing out that RDN Staff have been fully aware of Sandpiper water quality issues but have done nothing. FCRA June 2016 submission to purchase Epcor had outlined the Epcor treatment plant on Drew Rd could also handle Sandpiper water and eliminate the problem.
4. Director Wallace was thanked for finally getting BC Hydro to install lights on the French Creek bridge after much delay. Wallace also mentioned her predecessor Clarke Gourlay had been involved in driving this issue.
5. Will our region be able to provide new housing with water service? This is handled by the Prov. Water Management branch whose job is to ensure adequate supply exists.

7. Treasurer’s Report.

Treasurer Barb Riordan presented the Annual Financial Report to March 31, 2020. In summary, the closing account balance was \$2,518.91 with revenue from dues of \$1,340.57, interest of \$0.23 and expenses of \$1,280.52. The largest regular expense at \$600.00 remains Directors and Officers Liability Insurance which is a necessity if the society is to expect Members to run for the positions. The financial statement is based on cash accounting principles. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. M/S Mark Nelson, Sandy Cook. Carried.

8. Director’s Activity Report.

Chair Williams read the report which is attached to these Minutes following the Annual Financial Report.

9. Questions from the minutes and reports.

An update on the eagle’s nest construction on French Creek estuary lands was given by Robin Robinson of the Friends of French Creek Conservation Society.

10. Acknowledgement of Board Members.

Chair Williams thanked all the current outgoing officers and directors for their service during this trying and disruptive time with Covid 19 which has curtailed activity/operations of the Association since March 2020.

11. Election of Officers and Directors.

A slate of nominees was presented. Chair Williams asked for a volunteer for the position of Association Secretary but no one came forward. In all cases nominations or volunteers were invited from the floor three times.

Rob Williams agreed to stand as President and was acclaimed.

Michael Cook agreed to stand for VP and was acclaimed.

Jervis Swannack agreed to stand for VP and was acclaimed.

Barb Riordan agreed to stand for Treasurer and was acclaimed.

Secretary – vacant.

There is no Past President.

As per Bylaws, the Association may have up to 6 Directors.

Lyle Hollingworth, Brian Coath, Pat Weber and Lloyd Sargison agreed to let their names stand as Directors.

Member Rick Atkinson was nominated from the floor and agreed to let his name stand for Director.

All were acclaimed.

12. Questions and discussion.

There were no further questions or discussion.

13. Adjournment.

At 8:50 pm Chair Williams declared that all business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Chair Rob Williams and reviewed by Treasurer Barb Riordan.

Minutes are subject to review and adoption at the next Annual General Meeting in 2021.

Update by Lehann Wallace, Director RDN Area G
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- Director Lehann Wallace has been in the position as Electoral Area Director for 12 months.
- She lives in the Englishman River area of EA G and represents the Martindale, San Pareil, Evergreen Timbers, Cold Water Road, Little Qualicum, Qualicum Airport South, Surfside , part of Dashwood and of (the most densely populated Area of G), French Creek.
- Dir. Wallace prepared a short high-level overview to summarize the regional committees she is appointed to, the priorities focused on over the past twelve months and key projects and issues ahead for 2021 to 2022.
- Committees: Dir Wallace has been appointed to represent the RDN for the North Island 911 Corporation, the Englishman River Water Service, the Oceanside Homelessness Task Force, and is the Alternate for the Arrowsmith Water Service Area to Director Bob Rogers.
- Other RDN committee member work includes the Transit Select, Regional Parks and Trails, and Oceanside Services Committee and Chair of the Area G Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee.
- Top issues of the past 12 months in the role are Governance and Water issues in the French Creek Area.
- She spoke to the challenge of representing an area that is urban in nature, yet still resides under the RDN as a rural area.
- As the local government act doesn't allow more than 1 elected official for rural areas, no matter what the size nor complexity, the EA represents as many residents as many Towns or population centers in the province that have representation of Councillor and Mayor structures.
- Area G residents are very interested in learning more about Boundary expansion of Parksville and Qualicum, Incorporation of French Creek or a restructure of the Oceanside Area
- The representation of Area G as a rural area is complex because of its urban development.
- A number of inquiries she receives from residents are beyond regional district authority such as roads, land clearing, municipal bylaws, homelessness and addiction issues, healthcare and lack thereof, air space and other provincial and federal jurisdictions.
- The Board of the RDN is now aware of the Sandpiper Community water service issues as of the delegation of June 23, 2020.
- The lack of RDN water governance for water infrastructure connectivity issue to other sources and potential storage redundancy for capacity building is a key focus for the next two years.

- The available water means that the RDN's ability to achieve the Official Community Plan for G development within the Epcor water service areas isn't currently possible within the existing infrastructure without additional licensed ground water resources or connectively to other sources.
- The Water Manager and Section Head of Water Authorizations with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development is currently conducting a study of surface water flows in the French Creek Area.
- The mapping of the aquifers and the study results from the DWWP can be used to develop a water budget to protect ground water resources and determine future development as potential next step.
- Advocacy for Sandpiper and the French Creek Area on this issue has been with The Ministry (FLNRD), various media and candidates of the current provincial election to ensure that representation is achieved.
- Dir Wallace encouraged the room to also contact each candidate in the current election ask of them – "Under the provincial authorities of water, subdivision approval and environment - what is their representation plan for French Creek?"
- Parks Plan for 2021: Area G Posac is up and running and has achieved a working priority plan towards 2021 financial plan for improvements in 5 Parks.
- The identified priority projects are San Malo and Maple Lane completion from previous Directors' Legacies and new projects for Boulton Park, Columbia Drive Park, and the River's Edge Park (school bus pick up and drop off area).
- Through use of the Community Works funds, taxation for these projects will be leveraged to achieve capital improvements of \$180,000 allocated by my board motion last March.
- Over the past 12 months improvements have been made in well capping at Blue Water Park and Columbia Drive park, trail refurbishment at Lee Road Trail and protection of Beach Access through park Land acquisition from the Ballard development at the cabins.
- French Creek Pollution Control Centre expansion and Odor Control updates (attached) and online as the RDN get involved website has been updated in preparation for this meeting.
- Director Wallace thanked the French Creek Residents association executive for their assistance on researching and connecting with residents on issues for RDN topics in French Creek.

**French Creek Residents Association Annual General Meeting
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2019/2020 Financial Report**

Opening Balance – April 1, 2019	\$2,358.63
Income – Membership Dues	\$1,340.57
Wildlife Permit Refund	\$ 100.00
Interest	\$ 0.23
Expenses	\$1,280.52
Closing Balance – March 31, 2020	\$2,518.91

Expenses included:	
Directors & Officers Liability Insurance	\$ 600.00
Website	\$ 111.51
Society Filing	\$ 40.00
Board Meeting Room Rental	\$ 214.03
St Columba Meeting Room Rental	\$ 240.00
St Columba Meeting Liability Insurance	\$ 31.00
Engraved Pen Set -Appreciation Gift	\$ 43.98
TOTAL	\$1,280.52

Board of Directors Activity Report

Annual General Meeting October 7, 2020

Due to covid curtailment our activities have been impacted and we have been unable to conduct our monthly Board meetings, the last being March. We have been informed by the RDN that the Oceanside Place small meeting room will not be available for us in the remainder of 2020.

1. Purchase of Epcor

After 3 ½ years promoting/pursuing this concept and dealing with RDN staff who did not exhibit an interest in pursuing the issue, the RDN gave up negotiations in the fall of 2019 even though we could afford to buy the water system equity. We believe staff do not understand the negotiation process while Epcor are experts. This issue is currently and unfortunately at a dead end. It should be noted that a purchase would alleviate water quality concerns in Sandpiper at a substantially reduced cost to property owners because the Epcor system in that area incorporates a treatment plant which is capable of handling Sandpiper water as well.

2. French Creek Estuary Lands

We have continued to work with French Creek Estates and Friends of French Creek Conservation Society (FFCCS) on proposed development plans for the commercial property at the marina and the land available for development in the estuary area. Nothing further has transpired and no construction has started in the initial area bounded by Admiral Tryon and Viking Way which was sold to Elkay Developments.

3. French Creek Bridge Lighting

After 2+ years of lobbying we were finally able to get the RDN to have BC Hydro install lights at each end of the bridge.

4. French Creek Incorporation/Restructure of local government

We have engaged with the Province Dept of Municipal Affairs to determine whether French Creek could become a municipality. Based on a population exceeding 5,000 residents we would be larger than most Villages and many Towns in BC. The reason is dissatisfaction and lack of action dealing with the Dept of Highways and the RDN with a Board of 19 Directors, 8 of whom are from the City of Nanaimo and 4 others from Parks, Qualicum and Lantzville. RDN staff act accordingly. The reality is that French Creek is a small region within the overall RDN and does not carry any weight. The handling of the Epcor proposal is a good example. However, this is a long process.

5. Robertson Crosswalks

Resulting from the fatality on Robertson Blvd at St. Andrews strata, we have been lobbying to have 2 crossings marked as official crosswalks. Dealing with the Dept of Highways has been non-productive and frustrating.

6. French Creek Harbour (herring egg odour project)

We continue to monitor this issue but eggs have not accumulated to any significant degree in the past 3 seasons. We have also monitored sea lion population accumulation in the harbour confines with the Harbour Authority.

7. POSAC (Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee)

This committee is a volunteer group organized and overseen by our Area Director. We are following more closely to attempt to ensure that reserve funds are used appropriately to maintain and develop the numerous park parcels located throughout French Creek. At present they have funds available amounting to almost \$900,000 for these endeavours which could also include the purchase of further park land.

8. FCRA Membership

Property owner/resident membership remains a problem because we have no method to identify and contact new owners. We also lose members who don't renew even when reminders are sent via email.

9. New developments - Lee Road, Woodland Drive

We have monitored these sites closely to ensure that environmental and building code requirements are followed. The land across from lower St. Andrews Strata is being cleared at this time.

10. Columbia Drive Traffic Control

We have raised this problem again with the Dept of Highways and our Area Director concerning this dangerous and frustrating entry/exit to Columbia Beach. Essentially they are doing nothing and we are attempting to have the issue corrected via a light or roundabout. The Dept of Highways is essentially ignoring the problem.