



# City of Port Moody

## Minutes

### Environmental Protection Committee

Minutes of the electronic meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee held on Monday, September 21, 2020 via Zoom.

#### **Present**

Councillor Amy Lubik, Chair  
Margaret Birch (joined at 7:18pm)  
Elaine Golds  
Andrew MacLellan  
Javney Mohr  
Gregory Pepler  
Damian Regan  
Jutta Rickers-Haunerland  
Connie Smith  
Judy Taylor-Atkinson

#### **Absent**

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Vice-Chair  
Don McKendrick

#### **In Attendance**

Angela Crampton – Sustainability and Energy Specialist  
Philip Lo – Committee Coordinator  
Julie Pavey-Tomlinson – Director of Environment and Parks

#### **Also In Attendance**

Erika Nassichuk, District of North Vancouver

#### **1. Call to Order**

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

#### **2. Adoption of Minutes**

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#### **Minutes**

##### **2.1 EPC20/014**

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

**THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, July 20, 2020 be amended by removing “herons defended their territory from eagles” and by removing “s” in “juveniles” in item 4.6 – Heron Update;**

**AND THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, July 20, 2020 be adopted as amended.**

### 3. Unfinished Business

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### 4. New Business

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#### **Rodenticide studies at the District of North Vancouver**

#### 4.1 Presentation: Erika Nassichuk, District of North Vancouver

Erika Nassichuk from the District of North Vancouver (DNV) gave a presentation on the research summary regarding bait trap and rodenticide use, noting the following:

- this was the District's first example of using a practicum student from UBC, and was a positive experience;
- the District experienced owls dying from rodenticide poisoning, and investigated alternative systems such as GoodNature traps;
- second-generation anticoagulants (SGARS) are very potent and lethal; however, rodents could develop tolerance and pass the tolerance on to future generations;
- SGARS kill rodents, but will also kill animals that feed on deceased or dying rodents, including raccoons and songbirds; insects are also affected;
- the primary issue is the inhumane effects of poison on rats and non-target species;
- poisonings are happening around waterways as dying rodents drink lots of water;
- GoodNature traps are toxin-free, humane traps that use lethal strikes without poison; DNV deployed these traps in 2019 to replace bait stations, and have proven to be effective on large rats as well;
- GoodNature traps are more expensive upfront than SGARS, and require the squirrel guard accessory; however, the cost reduces over time and the traps are calculated to be cheaper over a 10-year cycle;
- the first step is to monitor the area and determine what species are taking the bait (rats, field mice, or other species) in order to determine whether a rat problem exists;
- for DNV, early 2019 conclusions indicate that there is a lesser problem with rats than initially thought, but many bait boxes are still being deployed and exposing rodenticide to other wildlife;
- trail cameras are useful, inexpensive tools;
- local governments cannot ban rodenticide use on private property, only the Province can; the DNV adopted new policy of banning rodenticide use on DNV property only, and no new bylaw was written;
- the key messaging is that humans have created conditions for rats and mice to thrive, and they deserve humane deaths; releasing poisoning into environment should be the last resort; and

- part of the strategy is to keep attractants down and to keep wildlife out of buildings.

Staff noted the following in response to Committee questions:

- Port Moody has some rats, but there may not be as many as people imagine;
- the City has trail counters but not trail cameras;
- staff are working on responding to Council's resolution to ban rodenticide use, including seeking legal opinion, conducting an outreach program, and sending a letter to the Province to advocate for a province-wide ban;
- attractant management is a key part of wildlife management in general, regardless of species; and
- areas where people deposit bird feed could potentially attract rats.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- communication to private property owners and strata management should be concise, and include advice and pricing to reduce the amount of research needed; and
- the policy approach is a wise and more feasible approach, and staff should consider this when presenting to Council.

## **Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Strategy Update**

### **4.2 Angela Crampton – Sustainability and Energy Specialist**

Staff gave a presentation on the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Strategy update, noting the following:

- key changes include more accurate mapping, revised Development Permit Area (DPA) designation to Environmental Development Permit Area (EDPA) to include marine shoreline, streamside setbacks, and assessment area, and updated DPA guidelines that protect and restore ESAs;
- next steps include targeted stakeholder input and a report to Council; an OCP amendment would be required to include the updated map and EDPA guidelines;
- the upcoming stakeholder input opportunity will be available on the City's website; and
- the Parks and Recreation Commission endorsed the ESA update.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff noted the following:

- as part of the ESA strategy update, a variance strategy will be developed in conjunction with Planning staff;
- environmental protection guidelines for marine shoreline areas would apply to the Flavelle site; however, there would be limitations and challenges as

a DP guideline is not the same as a Zoning Bylaw setback;

- staff are working with the Planning department regarding a tiered review process, in recognition that the EPDA expands the scope and acknowledges the different impacts of different development types, especially single family homes;
- the strategy update supports the climate change lens approach, as it is concerned with climate resilience and adaptation;
- regarding dock installations, anything below the high water mark is part of Port of Vancouver jurisdiction;
- restoration of an ESA could be a condition as part of the requirements through the DP guidelines;
- the City's Parkland Acquisition Strategy looks for opportunities to enhance connectivity;

The Committee noted that, for linear developments along the shoreline, it is important to maintain connectivity and not isolate areas.

The Committee suggested that an FAQ or Q&A that provides answers to specific development situations should be include as part of the public input opportunity.

EPC20/015

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

**THAT the Environmental Protection Committee endorse the updates to the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Management Strategy for presentation to Council.**

**2020 Environmental  
Award Nominations  
Review**

4.3 EPC20/016

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

**THAT, pursuant to section 90 of the *Community Charter*, this portion of the Regular Meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee be closed to the public as the subject matter being considered relates to the following:**

- **90(1)(b) – personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the municipality on condition of anonymity.**

EPC20/017

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

**THAT the meeting be extended for 5 minutes.**

**Committee Update**

4.4 The Committee noted the following:

- work on the single reusable plastics ban was disrupted when Victoria was challenged in court by plastics industry;
- on September 12, 2020, the Province paved the way for municipalities to be able to ban single use plastics, by give municipalities more power to outlaw plastics;

- a number of municipalities have been given the green light to ban single-use plastics;
- per an article in the Province newspaper, some municipalities are not pursuing the ban until after the pandemic, and some have gone back to single use plastics for safety reasons.

The Chair noted that Council had passed a motion for staff to investigate the possibility of a ban, and that a report for Council consideration is likely to come back in 2021.

The Committee noted that there have been more frequent use of drones along the Shoreline Trail and at Rocky Point Park.

Staff noted that recreational drone use is currently prohibited under the Parks and Community Facilities Bylaw, and that only search and rescue and City usage of drones is permitted; staff noted that this has been communicated out many times.

The Committee suggested that the Anti-Idling Bylaw should be communicated out more.

Staff noted that it could be timely to send out a reminder of the Bylaw, which is subject to enforcement.

The Committee noted that City ambassadors, who patrol the Shoreline Trail loops, have noticed that many people bring balloons to Old Orchard Park and Rocky Point Park; there is currently a City policy against the use of balloons; a bylaw should be considered.

Staff noted that no balloons is part of the booking policy for Rocky Point Park and part of the sustainable events guidelines; however, as the City has not permitted booking this year, there have been more spontaneous events with balloons; there are signage and social media postings on this issue, and staff are working on the education component and coming up with environmentally-friendly alternatives to balloons.

The Committee noted increased vandalism of signage and camp fires as part of COVID-19's impact to parks and recreation.

## 5. Information

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### Staff Updates

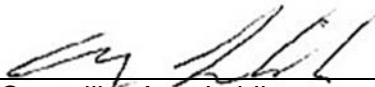
#### 5.1 Staff noted the following:

- orcas were spotted in Port Moody arm;
- the City's Human Bear Conflict Management Plan is in final stages of editing;
- staff have worked hard on the ESA strategy update in partnership with Planning department staff; and

- the City received many calls about the western hemlock moth outbreak; staff have a new way of tracking data, and are in contact with the Province, which is conducting surveillance; the outbreak highlights the importance of forest resilience and the cumulative impact of urban forest management strategy and other City strategies.

## 6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:17pm.



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Councillor Amy Lubik,  
Chair



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Philip Lo,  
Committee Coordinator