REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 14, 2020
1:30 P.M.
Board Chambers

Regrets:   Director V. Craig  Chair
           Director K. Wilson  Electoral Area A
           Director M. Young  Electoral Area C
           Director B. Rogers  Electoral Area E
           Director L. Salter  Electoral Area F
           Director L. Wallace  Electoral Area G
           Director S. McLean  Electoral Area H

Also in Attendance  P. Carlyle  Chief Administrative Officer
                   R. Alexander  Gen. Mgr. Regional & Community Utilities
                   G. Garbutt  Gen. Mgr. Strategic & Community Development
                   T. Osborne  Gen. Mgr. Recreation & Parks
                   D. Wells  Gen. Mgr. Corporate Services
                   D. Pearce  Gen. Mgr. Transportation & Emergency Services
                   J. Hill  Mgr. Legislative Services
                   T. Mayea  Legislative Coordinator
                   C. Golding  Recording Secretary
                   C. Jefferies  Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order and respectfully acknowledged the Coast Salish Nations on whose traditional territory the meeting took place.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as amended, to include the following items:

4.1.1 Updated Presentation Materials submitted by James A. Russell BA, MD, FRCPC

5.2 Paul Morgan, Wilson Marshall Law Corporation, re 2550 Quennell Road

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Electoral Area Services Committee Meeting - November 26, 2019

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Electoral Area Services Committee meeting held November 26, 2019, be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

John White, re Quennell Road Cannabis Farm

John White, representing the Cedar community and its opposition to the outdoor cannabis farm, provided an overview of the community’s concerns over Quennell Lake and the surrounding watercourses, should Crofton Crafts be successful in their efforts to secure a license to produce cannabis plants.

Dr. James Russell, re Quennell Road Cannabis Farm

Dr. James Russell, Professor of Medicine at University of British Columbia, provided an overview of cannabis associated air contaminants and emissions and noted that there are no studies on health effects associated with exposure to cannabis odours and that safe levels of cannabis air contaminants and emissions are unknown.

Thomas R. Elliot, PhD P.Ag P.Geo, re Agricultural Land Reserve Farm Use within Regional District of Nanaimo

Thomas R. Elliot, independent third party Agrologist (P.Ag) and Hydrologist (P.Geo) provided an overview of his opinion on matters related to Crofton Crafts at 2550 Quennell Road. He noted they are a fully compliant farm and requested that the Regional District of Nanaimo refrain from contravening provincial legislation.

Richard Dowker, re Organic Cannabis Farm - 2550 Quennell Road

Richard Dowker, President, Crofton Crafts, (and acting owner representative for 2550 Quennell Road) provided an overview of the farm and its use of regenerative techniques to protect the environment and how the farm will adhere to government regulations. He requested that the Regional District of Nanaimo support Crofton Craft’s Right to Farm following federal, provincial and municipal regulations.

CORRESPONDENCE

It was moved and seconded that the following correspondence be received for information:

Frances Lasser, Representative of Residents of Quennell Lake Area, re Letter from Thomas Elliot, Madrone Environmental Services Ltd., re RDN EASC Presentation November 26, 2019

Paul Morgan, Wilson Marshall Law Corporation, re 2550 Quennell Road

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
PLANNING

Development Permit with Variance

Development Permit with Variance Application No. PL2019-179 - 1249 Winchester Road, Electoral Area F

It was moved and seconded that Development Permit with Variance Application No. PL2019-179 - 1249 Winchester Road, Electoral Area F be deferred to the next Electoral Area Services Committee meeting on February 11, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Development Variance Permit

Development Variance Permit Application No. PL2019-113 - 1540 Haida Way, Electoral Area E

It was moved and seconded that the Board approve Development Variance Permit No. PL2019-113 to reduce the interior lot line setback from 2.0 m to 1.6 m for a proposed garage, subject to the terms and conditions of Attachment 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was moved and seconded that the Board direct staff to complete the required notification for Development Variance Permit No. PL2019-113.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Regional Emergency Resource Agreement

It was moved and seconded that the Regional Emergency Resource Agreement be renewed for a one-year term until December 31, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Modernizing BC’s Emergency Management Legislation

It was moved and seconded that the Board endorse the submission (attachment 3) on the Modernizing BC’s Emergency Management Legislation discussion paper.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

Notice of Motion – Quennell Road Cannabis Farm

Director Wilson provided notice of the following motion to be considered at the January 28, 2020 Board meeting:
1. That the Chair of the Regional District of Nanaimo write a letter to the Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development requesting a provincial moratorium on outdoor cannabis production until such time as the province prepares a Ministers Standard for outdoor growing, similar to those developed for indoor cannabis production, and a Farm Practices Guide for cannabis.

2. That staff be directed to review opportunities to increase the Regional District of Nanaimo’s role in the regulation of cannabis production activities (indoor and outdoor) to avoid potential impacts to the community such as traffic, public health hazards, water and air pollution.

NEW BUSINESS

Directors’ Roundtable

Directors provided updates to the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2:50 PM

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CHAIR