

Protection Island Community Forum
Dock Talk: A Community Forum on Docks and Access
Saturday 27th March, 2010. 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Beacon House

Meeting Notes

Executive Present: David Essig, Thora Howell, Josephine Kenchenten, Michael MacColl, Cathy Tuominen, Veronica Zehntner.
Regrets: Fred Schloessinger, Linda Irvine, Brenda Henderson
Approximately 7 other community members attended.

- 1) Opening Remarks Meeting Format:
 - a) Call to Order @ 13:40 - David
Reading of Vision Statement
 - b) Focus Areas:
 - i. Our Community Dock at Mud Bay
 - ii. Access to and from the island
 - i) Summary of Survey Results – Michael reviewed the response from the last survey pertaining to docks and access to provide some context for discussions.
- 2) State of the Dock Report: David provided an update on the insurance requirements and that they have been met. Larry Iwoskow provided an update on where the improvements to the dock were at. Two new sections had been built, railings installed and couplings were replaced. Dock is currently in very good shape and allows easy access along it for wheelchairs, wheelbarrows etc. Plans are to reuse flotations in future structures. A request has gone out for islanders to take any clean wood for burning and any left will be addressed in April. Plans are in the works for some landscaping to occur in the upland/foreshore area. Larry announced a work party for foreshore cleanup to happen on April 3rd a BBQ with music will be hosted by Larry and all are welcome to come and help out and enjoy. Larry is looking for hosts to repeat the event on April 10th, 17th and 24th. Larry's biggest concern is that it is difficult to get volunteers to help out on the dock and would like to urge the community to support its community dock. Larry reiterated that the dock plans initiated in the last few years have been achieved and if regular maintenance and replacement of sections are done there should be minimal work required in the future.
- 3) Discussion of community dock issues: it was felt that the current administration of the docks may need some more rigor but that the group felt the need to retain it as a 'community' arrangement rather than going to a stronger business focus. There was discussion on how to provide incentives to boaters in order to get more volunteers working on the dock. One example was dock fee credits for work. PIRA could assist in promoting awareness of dock rules and the value of volunteers to work on the dock. Discussions on the increase of users on the dock and what other alternatives are available.
- 4) Discussion of island access issues: Michael initiated discussion access issues being moorage, emergency access and parking on the city side. It was pointed out that the Causeway has possibilities for kayaks and rowboats, Gallows Point would be a good spot for an additional small dock for moorage that might alleviate some of the pressure on Mud Bay. Other options were discussed that would require purchase of properties or acquiring foreshore leases from areas like Lot 2 & 12. There was discussion about emergency access at Gallows Point in inclement weather. Most times it is fine but there could be times that weather forbids landing at the dock. 911 dispatch would make the determination on dispatching a helicopter. There was further discussion on the response time to get off the island. It would appear that most of the delay is due to the mid-island having few ambulances available in the evening. Response time is an issue in town as well. Members of the public should address the shortfall of service to VIHA.
- 5) Conclusions: The board agreed to review the long range plans for the community dock and review the budget requirements. It agreed to publicize the dock rules and provide new signage as well as an orientation package to new users. The board committed to encouraging more volunteers to help out on work parties and to illustrate what the alternatives are if we are unable to get volunteers

The board agreed to investigate and define what constitutes public access. It will enquire about the restoration of the Gallows Point dock that was previously removed and will take another look at options for dock access. The board also agrees to advocate the need for good response time from ambulance service to VIHA.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45.