

Summary Notes of the Neighbourhood Meeting with the Residents of Curteis Point and Lands End

held at the Sidney-North Saanich Yacht Club, September 4th 2007, 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

Attending from North Saanich Council:

Mayor Ted Daly and Councillors Chandler (meeting recorder), Green, Scoones and Shaw.

Mayor Daly welcomed the audience and opened the discussion by inviting residents to voice any neighbourhood issues, concerns or questions. The following is a summary of the points raised. Since the meeting District Staff have provided further information to address these points.

1. The status of the request for a cement barrier to be placed along Swartz Bay Road. After consideration by Council in October 2006 it was determined that because any barrier would have to be on Hwy 17 the Ministry of Transportation needed to be involved. Council members met with the MOT's Assistant Deputy Minister and the Regional Director later that month and the situation was referred to review under the MOT's safety warrant system. In December MOT staff advised that the barrier is not a priority issue for them as there are more dangerous locations that required funding. In March 2007 District staff were informed that MOT staff were requesting accident data for this location from RCMP or ICBC, to determine if the incident that triggered the request should be considered a "one-off" occurrence or part of a larger traffic hazard pattern. MOT will be asked to provide an update.
2. Vehicles parking for extended periods of time on municipal roads. Vehicles that are licensed can remain parked for as long as the owner wants, providing there are no signs that indicate otherwise. The District of North Saanich has the authority to post signs but as yet has chosen to avoid doing so. However, if residents write to Council with specific concerns this issue will be re-examined on a case by case basis.
3. Issues with BC Ferries. A meeting between BC Ferries management and North Saanich Council on Sep 27, 2007 was used to clarify the status of landscaping plans at the Swartz Bay terminal. The position of BC Ferries management, at the highest levels, is that landscaping of the terminal areas has a very high priority, and that improvements are imminent. Additional efforts will be made to keep the Swartz Bay neighbourhood informed.
4. Neighbourhood Landscaping. At present there is no formal process for residents to initiate neighbourhood landscaping projects (such as the removal of invasive species or to improve appearance of undeveloped private properties) in cooperation with the District. However, there are examples, such as the residents of Deep Cove who have organised a neighbourhood project to landscape the Warrior Point trail with help from the District. Anyone interested in a cooperative arrangement should contact Brian Robinson (Superintendent of Public Works) 655-5460.
5. Reduction of Speed Limit on Marina Way. The District hired a traffic consultant to install monitors and review the appropriateness of the 50 kph Marina Way speed limit in 2005. A follow-up study was done in July 2007 after most of the residential construction on the street was finished. The consultant concluded, "Traffic volumes and 85th percentile speeds are within the range expected for a street such as this". The consultant

recommended no further action, and at present District staff recommend keeping the speed limit on Marina Way at 50 kph.

6. Dangerous trees. The recommended process for residents to follow if they believe a tree is in a dangerous condition (i.e. looks dead and is leaning at an unusual angle) and that tree is on private property other than their own is to contact the owner. If the owner cannot be reached then contact the District Hall and ask for the property owner's name and mailing address in order to write a letter to the owner stating their concerns. If the tree is on municipal property then the concerned resident should contact the District Hall. The staff arbourist (Tony Longman) will visit the site to assess the situation. In difficult cases an independent arbourist may be required to examine the tree. Any safety concerns will be dealt with at the District's expense.
7. Clarification of the noise bylaw (specifically the use of mowers, 'weed eaters', and leaf blowers on Sunday). The present approach is to restrict the noise from construction activity as stated in the bylaw, but to allow the use of home landscaping equipment at any time as long as people are being reasonable.