

Sooke Regular Council Meeting Sept 14, 2020

Delegation

Susan Belford from Transition Sooke gave a powerful, well-articulated presentation on “Climate Action as the Overarching Framework for Sooke’s new OCP.” The presentation appeared to fall on deaf ears as no one on Council said a word. Mayor Tait asked staff to provide the presentation to councillors and the OCP Steering Committee.

(Note: In the final minutes of this meeting, which do not appear until several months later, it states that there was a motion to receive TS’s presentation, but in fact there was no such motion. I have emailed Council about this.)

Public Question and Comment Period

Oral comments from the public were all environmental in nature and directly related to items on the agenda:

1. 10 people supported TS’s Climate Change and the OCP presentation with a range of ideas,
2. Three people supported the banning of rodenticides (which often result in the killing of owls)
3. One group supported the Tree Bylaw.

One key contribution from TS’s Susan Clarke was asking if in fact TS’s “ask” was going to be sent to the OCP Steering Committee, would that committee decide on this matter and how would it make that decision?

Councillor Beddows, council liaison on the OCP Steering Committee responded to Susan’s question saying the committee would make its decision by consensus. When the committee meets, it may ask TS to give a presentation to them, but he could not confirm that because it was up to the committee.

There were also four written contributions, one to support TS’s presentation, one for the rodenticides issue and two for the tree bylaw.

Mayor Tait added that the OCP Steering Committee’s meetings will be open to the public.

Committee of the Whole recommendations from Sept 8, 2020

That bear/human conflicts be considered in the OCP review

Reports

2096 Church Road development permit for Worklink office – presentation and discussion -
Carried

DeMamiel Creek (Little River) Pedestrian Crossing – connects Sun River to rest of town - motion to support a grant application - Carried

Parental Leave Policy – Carried

Bylaws

2084 Ludlow Road – Zoning amendment

Correspondence requiring action

Four councillors to attend FCN Sustainable Communities Conference. Carried

Drive-in-movie request – need to confirm location before decision

Motion: Council communicate with the appropriate provincial Ministers requesting restrictions on anti-coagulant rodenticides. Carried

Motion: Council supports a complete ban of anticoagulant rodenticides on all District of Sooke owned properties and formalize its current practice and policies on anticoagulant rodenticides to ensure the continued protection of ecological integrity for now and in the future. Carried

Motion: Council request Wild Wise Sooke begin public education on the harmful impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides and better alternatives that are available. Carried

No decisions on the tree bylaw.

Discussion on Fare-Free in the CRD. No decisions