

Squamish Trails Society Meeting January 20, 2011

Attendees:

Bob, Stephane, Vic, Patsy, Heather, Carl, Doug, Don, Patrick, Jasmine, Candy

Guest: Larry Murray - Squamish Crimestoppers

- www.solvecrime.ca, 1-800-222-8477
- Concern about property theft and vandalism around trailheads and on trails.
- Crimestoppers puts up signs on trails etc around Squamish. There are some issues with removal of crimestoppers signs, e.g. at BC Parks.
- Increasing trend in crimestoppers reporting in Squamish
- Larry Murray administers crimestoppers reports and delivers to Squamish RCMP who act on it.
- Larry suggests awareness is the best preventative measure (e.g. signage) and Larry has crimestoppers signs available
- Crimestoppers is starting a parking lot watch program – monitors lots and then gives people written feedback on whether or not their parked vehicles are secure (valuable items not visible etc.)
- The Community Police Station has closed due to a lack of security (for staff etc.) and Larry urges STS and other groups to advocate for it to be opened
- Hotspots for theft are Shannon Falls, Alice Lake, Murrin, Smoke Bluffs
- Squamish has the majority (60%) of tips in Sea to Sky region
- An idea has been presented to Tourism Squamish to pair up an older adult and a youth to be ambassador / crime-watcher in key areas
- Suggestion that STS could ask Squamish Council to formally approve of crime stopper stickers on District trail signage
- **Action: put up crimestoppers link on STS website.** Approved

Reports: Transportation Study Committee report - Carl/Ted

- Transit is shown as strong preference, as an alternative to single occupancy vehicles.
- There has been a strong focus on improving bike lanes to meet people's preferences. Want to make it as attractive as possible when whether appropriate.
- A strong point was made that the municipality needs to tap into community groups about their specific knowledge on needs. Municipality wants community 'users' to identify community connectors.
- Thursday Jan 27 public meeting on multi-modal transport study... go to "shape your future" on DoS website.
- Saturday Jan 22 there is a bus tour of future ideal nodes for proposed ideal transit routes. Meet at Shoppers Drug Mart at 11 am.

Kudos to the District to clear sidewalks and bike lanes when it snows!

Hwy 99/Commercial Way to Brennan Park Trail - Bob

• *email from Mary Mitchell*

- This project has been on the radar for a few years. STS got an environmental study done by Cascade Environmental. Would need equestrian use considerations.

- Doug suggested a meeting open to memberships of Watershed Society, Environmental Society, Streamkeepers, with STS to discuss environmental considerations and support for the trail. Perhaps Cascade could explain the findings to these multiple groups.
- Some people are sensitive about fragmentation of habitat and habitat corridors
- Cascade has identified a “least impact” option that could be discussed.
- Possible users for the trail: new residential near Brennan Park, sports teams/rec users, continuity between Brennan Park and Business park. Could be routing to future uses and routing.
- Cost would be ~\$80k. STS would contribute only a modest amount, with other funds from DoS, businesses, etc.
- Need to determine why and if this trail is a priority?
- The Multimodal Transportation Plan study identifies a possible overpass or underpass in the future.
- Would business park businesses be interested in helping to fund it?
- Perhaps we could benefit from survey monkey

Updates on District related issues - Bob

As requested – not yet available from Todd Pope

- ***highway improvement discrepancies***
- ***Corridor Trail re-alignment of road barricades from Hwy 99 Mamquam bridge to past the dyke entrance***
- ***Corridor Trail - Valleycliffe: Red Point to Clarke Drive***
- ***Terasen Gas: inappropriate loose gravel on Discovery Trail***
- ***Gov't Road/Brack School and Depot Rd. railway tracks***

Stephane wrote a letter to Council and has received response re agenda.

Valleycliffe Connector: letter to Ana Santos-Squamish CAN – Bob

- Squamish CAN attended in September and there have been many discussions since then. District of Squamish is now working on solutions.
- Bob has penned a response to Squamish CAN for consideration. Letter to be sent.

Discussion: Mamquam Blind Channel - waterfront trail & landowner's Crown Land use application (pg A28 Jan 7 Chief)

- Landowners in the area are in discussion with the District of Squamish and once it has been concluded we hope that there will be reinstated trail access.

Highlands Connector - Doug

- From Ayr drive to Skyline Place, and then to Coho Park.
- This is on the radar, should have ownership issues dealt with and improvements as noted.

We need to keep on the radar new opportunities for connections in newly developing areas, and keeping corridors open and available.

Patrick raises that maintenance between on slough trails (Wilson Slough area) may be needed. It gets worn away by the tide. Perhaps riprap or \ bags that have spikes that can be stacked and grow vegetation.

Meeting concluded at 9:07 pm.