

Squamish Trails Society ~ Sept 16, 2010
Minutes
Arts Council Building, Cleveland Avenue, Downtown Squamish

Present: Bob Brant, Heather Evans, Don Laurence, Doug Morrison, Eric Anderson, Mike Jenson, Ted Prior, other guests, Kate, Jackie, Mrs. Anderson, Todd Pope, Ed Dubois, Edith Tobe, Stephane Perron

- Including Guests: Todd Pope, Jenni Chancey, Squamish CAN reps

Chair: Bob Brant

Recorder: Heather Evans

Squamish CAN Proposal re Valleycliffe Trail Connectivity

Presentation by Eric Anderson.

Focus for Squamish CAN is on Cliffside Pub to Scott Crescent; this is Squamish CAN's interest due to its commuter use and potential use.

- Squamish CAN invited to collaborate with STS.
- STS has a relationship with Council (as does Squamish CAN), and STS has its eye on a "solution" with the whole community in mind.
- Squamish CAN created and sent a proposal in the summertime to STS, District Council and staff etc.
- The trail connection was identified as a key issue at community neighbourhood forum
- Squamish CAN thinks that bikes should be discouraged from this particular route
- Ice is a safety issue in wintertime, and injuries have resulted
- Lighting is an issue as well.

Discussion:

- private ownership is a key issue and could be a limitation, need to think creatively
- when there are negotiations with trail owners we need to remind them of the economic value of trails
- trail was built at same time as a waterline was built in early 1900s
- Eric thinks that part of the trail is a right of way corridor – to be confirmed
- At the Scott Crescent end there is lots of erosion on the trail (including Bertland trail)
- Private properties include those owned by Hunter, Bertland, Beckham, DeCook.
- A common informal trail route crosses / trespasses the Beckham and DeCook properties
- Current informal trails in Valleycliffe all have issues with lack of space, lack of switchbacks, steep grade, drainage
- Bob: We need to address solutions that will meet the needs of all people with varying mobility ... some of the existing trails even if fixed are very difficult to negotiate.
- It seems like there may be interest from the property owners for resolution if their liability can be protected
- The trail is vital for connections by people of all ages and lifestyles. Better to use the trails than the road because of limited visibility etc on the road.
- The trail under discussion has no name: time tunnel, school trail, etc. etc. Need to resolve this.

Todd Pope:

- Private property issues mean that DoS has constrained ability to act.
- People should not be encouraged to use the trails on private property as trespass is a very

- delicate and sensitive issue with the owners
- DoS may own some of the upper part of the trail, if in fact it is in the area on the map.
- Some lower parts noted on the Squamish CAN map will be addressed with the corridor trail (#17 on the corridor trail). DoS is looking at alignment and stabilization issues, costing out options
- There is a DoS study forthcoming with a study about the Upper Mamquam Blind Channel. It would be good to get the desired connections etc. into the study and Todd will make this connection with Planning staff.
- For Sections 1,2,3,4 (in the proposal) the trail is very steep. There are some private property issues. On this same section there are key issues related to safety that have been become worse over time with bike traffic and with drainage. Todd can take a look at this.
- The trails master plan (forthcoming) contains templates for license of occupation and ROW, which could then be taken forward so that liability would be more on the District. Once the trails master plan is adopted ...
- Clarke Drive will be changed in the near future – will be an interchange
- Looking toward some quick fixes and safety issues.
- The proposal will be included in open house data related to the trails master plan.

Next Step

- Suggestion (later in the meeting) is that STS (and possibly others) need to go out and look around at what is possible for resolution. Need to be careful that we do not inflame private owner sensitivities.

Edith Tobe

- VanCity Grant was received by Sq River Watershed Society for \$4000. Education program Kindergarten to Grade 7. STS charitable status was utilized, and thanks were provided to STS.
- Edith will email a newsletter.
- Initiation of the program in October, lots of demand from the schools.
- Need volunteers – have a training program, 4 hour shifts. Edith will circulate the opportunity. In kind contributions are really helpful.

Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council – info provided by Edith Tobe

- Kimberley Armour: 604-849-0676 has been hired as an educator – can call her to call for sighting invasive species. She will be working with the nurseries re sales of invasive species.
- There is a website and facebook presence as well <http://www.ssisc.info/home>

Jenni Chancey – Municipal Infrastructure Engineer

- Jenni has been hired since June 2010. With her colleagues they have lots of new engineering staff and new thoughts, including keenness around bikes, cycle trails, etc.
- Valleycliffe-Brackendale commuter cycling project is actively being worked on. The signed agreement was received just days ago. Grant money – got an extension to March 2012 but will do it as quickly as possible. Addressing low hanging fruit. Project starts with cycling lanes along Westway. Jenni focusing on Brackendale part. Some areas we need some serious \$ and design work – e.g. Leski's crossing. Other areas we just need to do some patching and signing etc.
- Thanks to Stephane for being really proactive on this project on behalf of STS.
- Government Road sewer project. It's a tight spot, very narrow. Yes consideration has been given to pedestrians and cycling. 1.5 m cycling lane on both sides. will not be for obeying the rules of the road. Pinch points are the telephone poles – trail will bump out. Bike lanes will be no parking zones.
- Working on the traffic bylaw – dealing with on street parking.
- Bob: raised the point that when Pioneer Road is going to be re-routed we need to remember

about rerouting of the Discovery Trail. Todd has been keeping this on the radar.

- Jenni is working on sidewalk and bike lane along Government Road (in front of Elements) from NoName Road to Mamquam Road.
- Mutual invitation for sharing ideas, providing updates, etc. between Jenni and the STS.

Todd

- The alternate school has students who can do some trail work from 12:30 to 3 on some Tuesdays. Maybe signage, invasive species, brushback brigade

2031 Multimodal Transport Study MMTP – update from Ted

- Ted encourages people to fill out the online survey on transport
- Phone survey is in process as well to 500 residents
- Doing traffic counts
- Guiding principles for MMTP have been drafted. They want to adopt by end of Sept.
- Transport study 'value added' will be put into the OCP
- Comment: need to ensure that the trails master plan is intersected with the 'new' OCP
- Question: are the equestrian people on the multimodal group?
- New DCC bylaw could address directing DCC to trails projects – STS needs to get on board
- STS needs to write a letter to Council to remind them about the fact that \$ is allocated to trails from various projects
- Carl also submitted some info by email that Bob shared with the group
- Parking on bike lanes is an issue that should be raised – bring it up in the MMTP

Meg Toom:

Bear aware event on 25 September. We have been invited to participate. Nobody is available; we will advise Meg that nobody is available to do it.

SODC has committed up to \$5000 for an upgrade project. West side of the SODC loop trail will be improved, resurfaced from Squamish Tug to the end. Will get some kids (Outdoor Leadership or Cap College) to work on this. We will need a work party. Discussion about the access to the trail area(s) to drop off the material.

Proposal Queries (re Legacy funding)

- Jim Harvey – multigroup proposal for the legacy funding of \$750K as a legacy group. It has been dropped?
- John Harvey – Mamquam River crossing These have been determined to be not practicable due to ownership and cost.
- Paul Russell – Mamquam crossing – same idea.

Web Site

- Heather to forward the conceptual site information to the STS group
- Bob and Heather are meeting with web designers next week

Treasurers Report

- We have ~\$10,000.

Adjourn at 9:20pm