

Diamond Harbour Reserves Committee - (unconfirmed minutes)

Date: Monday 27th May 2024, 7pm to 9pm – Green Room, Diamond Harbour Community Centre

Present: Graeme Fraser - Chair, Paul Dahl – Vice Chair, Robert Goldie, Pete Ozich, Emma Kinnings

Guests: Rodney Chambers (Regional Parks), Hannah Murdoch (Community Parks), Richard Hill

Apologies: Tom Kuenning

Public Forum: Nil

Declarations of Interest: Nil

Health and safety issues or accidents: Nil

Minutes of previous meeting: Confirmed unanimously as accurate record.

1 – DH Reserve Committee/CCC – Co-management Agreement?

The Committee again expressed its disappointment that this agreement has not yet been finalised by Community Board Governance.

- DHRC signed the new Terms of Reference in September 2022, and submitted the required schedule of reserves, work plan and budget in February 2023.
- We had a meeting with Governance and both Parks units to finalise the reserve schedule in November 2023 and were assured that this would be distributed by Governance shortly afterwards so the co-management could commence.
- We are still waiting.

2 Winter activities - School Gully

- Given the imminent fencing of a large part of the gully, this will be our main focus this year, although some plants will also go to other areas.
- Pete is liaising with ranger Matt Rose to ensure no sheep are in the area before it's fenced, as he is organizing a planting session for the Kindy on Wednesday.
- Hannah confirmed that she will start arranging for the drop-off of plants, although with the current dryness, it is unlikely that we will be planting before mid-June. We will probably be able to drop them straight into School Gully, or if not, at the shed.
- **Pete will liaise with Hannah** regarding final quantities of canes, guards, mats and fertilizer tablets.
- Rodney said that he'd try to arrange for someone to bring a posthole auger (and a "whisk" to the site. We probably need 1500-2000 holes dug, so it may take a few visits, or several volunteers.
- Tracks – once the existing fence is removed, Pete suggests a track from the School Track diagonally across to Marine Drive – which could be a forerunner of a permanent laneway when the new Fire Station is developed on the adjacent land. There was agreement that this laneway should be wide enough for 4x4 access, partly to allow fire vehicles to the gully.

3 Other reserves

- **Sam's and Morgan's Gullies**
 - The Committee thanked Rodney for arranging the delivery of our new container shed. This will be used to store our main machines (weedwackers/bushcutters) as well as small quantities of 2 stroke fuel.
 - Rodney suggested that bolts could be welded on the inside to allow us to have some shelves and hangers for our equipment.
 - Our old shed will be used for planting materials and equipment, as well as the trapping supplies for the nearby WOPP lines (which has two teams of 3 volunteers monitoring every week)
- **Coastal Track**
 - Rodney advised that ranger Nick Singleton had checked out the Purau end of the track and that he agreed it would be better if there was some kind of step/platform there so that walkers did not exit straight out onto the road.

- **Ranui access track**
 - Emma asked if it was OK if she cleared this track which runs from between 21 and 23 Ranui Crescent to the Cliff Track Reserve. Most of us were surprised that this was passable as hadn't been for several years, so Emma was encouraged to continue.
- **Godley Memorial Track**
 - Graeme asked Rodney about the possible removal of an abandoned car next to this track. It's sitting in a vacant lot (97 Marine Drive) which seems to be public land.
 - **Graeme to contact local Fire Station** regarding possible retrieval exercise and it was suggested to also contact a scrap dealer to arrange collection.
- **Purau Recreation Reserve and Beachfront**
 - Paul asked Hannah if she could advise us about what is being planned in these areas.
 - **Hannah to check** and get back to us.

3. Weed control

- **Drone**
 - Pete had enquired about the possibility of having a drone to assist in finding weeds. He trialled Paul Dahl's but the resolution isn't sufficient.
 - Rodney said that Regional Parks may be getting one but the actual model was undecided. It was felt that an effective drone would probably cost at least \$7,000-10,000
 - Paul D's not enough. \$\$\$/permission CAA for over public land
- **Weed workshop**
 - Graeme had attended an event in Little River recently, partly organized by Ecan – which set out to educate local people about “garden escapees”.
 - Graeme is keen on organizing a similar event here, but to focus on just the worst weeds and also to provide advice about eliminating/eradicating weeds.
- **Green Waste Centre**
 - As another way of tackling the weed problem here, Graeme asked what the Committee thought about setting up such a centre. Considerations would be: location (not too close to houses due to smell/noise), staffing (it might only need to be open once or twice a week for a few hours), possibly self-financing if it offered greater convenience for local residents.
 - Rodney suggested contacting “Mainline” to see if they'd be interested in collection.
- **Boat ramp plan at Purau**
 - Rodney advised that there has not been any progress yet in developing the plan for this area.

4 Other business

- **Plant nursery**
 - We discussed the progress of this concept which would have the benefit of increasing the supply of eco-sourced plants in the harbour area.
 - Considerations would include: location, staffing, funding, cooperation with other groups such as the Community Garden Club.
 - Paul suggested that we attempt a stepping-stone approach, so set it up and run it without making it a commercial entity until such considerations were finalized and a proper business plan developed.
- **De-wiring our reserves**
 - Pete suggested that we try to remove all the fences from the gullies, and Graeme advised that he'd been working on the same around Stoddart Point.
 - We agreed that we would have to liaise with both Parks regarding disposal.

Meeting ended 8.30 pm. Next meeting – Monday July 29th - 7pm