

Diamond Harbour Reserves Committee - (unconfirmed minutes)

Date: Monday 8th April 2024, 7pm to 9pm – Committee Room, Diamond Harbour Community Centre

Present: Graeme Fraser - Chair, Robert Goldie, Tom Kuenning, Pete Ozich

Guests: Rodney Chambers, Dave Hammond, Richard Hill

Apologies: Emma Kinnings

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 – Schedule of reserves, work plan and budget/funding

Graeme confirmed that there was still no progress on these items which have still to be signed off by the Community Board, despite it being over a year since we submitted our drafts, and 6 months since our meeting with BPCB Governance, Regional Parks, and Community Parks. Graeme to follow this up with both Parks and the Governance team.

Graeme has submitted a list of our priorities for the Board's consideration towards the CCC Long-term Plan (circulated to members).

The Committee noted that Jobs for Nature funding is soon to run out, with nothing in place to replace it – so apart from volunteer efforts this will mean that no official weed control work will be taking place in our reserves. This may mean that some of the gains of the previous years in knocking back our worst weeds (eg. passionfruit), may be lost.

2 – School Gully

Plans for the forthcoming season rely on Regional Parks notifying the current lease (Tom Magill) and then arranging for a new fence to be put in further up the gully. (Pete and ranger Matt Rose met last November and agreed that the fence would probably be best at a fairly narrow point next to end of the school track).

Pete favours putting all our efforts into this gully, as the other areas should be able to take care of themselves fairly well. There is a good water supply, although we would need more waterers to cover the bigger area.

Rodney asked if a gate was required at the Marine Drive end, or at Ngatea Road if we remove that fence. It was felt that due to there being a significant line of trees in both places, this was unlikely.

Rodney to check with Matt Rose regarding the new fence. Graeme to confirm delivery of plants with Hannah (our new Community Parks ranger).

3 – Other reserves

Sam's Gully – plants along the new (west) track seem to be doing well. They are fairly protected from the elements and have been adequately watered. No plants required this year.

Purau Bay Reserve – last year's plants seem to be doing OK, despite some getting squashed by a fallen pine. Pete advised that somebody had been developing a mountain bike route through the area. Rodney said that he'd arrange for someone to check it (probably Nick Singleton). Planting here would depend on School Gully.

View Shaft – plants doing OK here (planted 2022). If we plant more around here this winter, it would probably be a good idea to recycle some of the irrigation pipe and run it from the cemetery tap, rather than using 5 hoses as now. The Committee would like more of the large pines that still block the view here to be removed. They were strangely only pruned last time.

Cliff Track – Tom advised that Church Bay volunteers had been doing a lot of work on the west-facing slopes below Emerson Crescent. Mostly boneseed. They would look to extend this around the corner. Tom had retrieved a lot of unneeded irrigation pipe and barrels from Black Point and stored it at the shed. Toma Adams has been doing lots of work getting rid of exotics (bamboo, wattles etc) below his place on Koramiko. The realignment of the track has still to be resolved, as there is quite a dip (at the bamboo), so it might require bridging.

4 – Shed

Graeme explained that, as we had recently been given another Stihl (FS250), Regional Parks are arranging for us to get a small (secure) container for storing all our machines. Graeme indicated where he thought it should go, but shortly after the meeting, Tom and Pete met and a site a bit further from the shed was selected. We will need to replace the (currently unofficial) water supply.

Graeme or Pete to be present when container arrives.

5 - Predator Control

A line of traps has now been placed in Sam's and Morgan's Gullies (roughly 20 assorted in each).

Teams of 2 or 3 volunteers will be monitoring these weekly and recording catches on Trap NZ.

All volunteers have received training and a field trial by Katie Dunlop of NZ Conservation Volunteers.

6 – Other business

Purau end of the Cliff Track – Graeme asked Rodney if consideration could be given to improving the point where people came off the track and onto the main road. Very little verge and cars doing 80-100kmh.

Meeting ended 8.30 pm.

Next meeting – Monday May 27th - 7pm