

Diamond Harbour Reserves Committee - (unconfirmed minutes)

Date: Monday 29 January 2024, 7pm to 9pm - Green Room, Diamond Harbour Community Centre

Present: Graeme Fraser - Chair, Paul Dahl - Vice Chair, Robert Goldie, Tom Kuenning, Emma Kinnings

Guests: Rodney Chambers, Dave Hammond, Debby Redmond, Richard Hill

Apologies: Pete Ozich, Paul Devlin

Public Forum: Nil

Declarations of Interest: Nil

Health and safety issues or accidents: Nil

1 - Recent activities

School nursery – Debby noted that the irrigation system had been going off more than before. She had initially suspected someone had been turning it off, but now thinks it may be the power supply. She will check the manual.

School Gully – water supply that Pete fixed up is great. Just needs 1 or 2 more people using it. Pressure is such that it reaches the top of the field. A few 5 fingers dead, and some hare/rabbit damage (esp. pittos.). Dave and Richard put some cardboard guards round the most bitten. Soil really hard now.

Purau pines – Dave says most plants doing fine. Some were damaged by falling pines.

View shaft – Richard, Dave and Graeme have watered here. Very dry. Some small ones at top struggling.

SE corner of Morgans Gully – Rob has been watering these.

Cliff Track (near Sam's Gully) – Richard reported that barrels below his property had been repeatedly pushed over. Perhaps someone who thinks they attract mozzies? The others suggested hiding the tanks, or staking with waratahs, or olive oil on the surface, or lids.

2 – Future activities

As was discussed at the last two meetings, we have requested about 1800 mixed natives to plant around School Gully, Purau Bay Reserve (similar to last year), Stoddart Point (to north of View Shaft), Black Point, Cliff Track, and 2M Waipapa - Graeme to confirm plant arrangements with new Community Parks liaison ranger, Hannah Murdoch.

The School Gully planting will depend on obtaining an extended area of School Gully. Pete Ozich met ranger Matt Rose in November on-site to discuss the area, fencing and watering. Graeme to write to Parks about timeline for advising Tom Magill and fencing.

3 – Reserve Schedule, Budget and workplan

Discussion on how these future activities fitted into our submitted work plan.

The committee recorded its disappointment that it had still not received the reserve schedule agreed with Regional and Community Parks in November, as well as the associated sign-off on the budget and work plan that we submitted over a year ago. These are cornerstones of the co-management relationship which was introduced by the new Terms of Reference in 2022.

4 - Equipment

Irrigation pipes – Rodney asked that later this year, we plan our exact requirements then go to him to buy it. Graeme explained that we'd ended up being able to recycle some pipe from other places (eg. Sam's Gully) – also that our request for pipe was sent in October but we didn't get any response till much later. This year's requirements will depend on School Gully extension.

A 3m secure container will soon be located next to the shed - hopefully with some new tools included. Graeme to collect some tools from Rodney this week. To take Stihl and get fuel. Pete had trialled electric weedwacker – better than previous models. Given that we are getting another brushcutter, the electric option might not be until next year. Storing chemicals and fuel – Rodney advised trying to limit this to small amounts, to avoid having to keep records/information sheets. We have asked Parks for 20L of glyphosate (Cut n Paste) – as bulk amount would be cheaper.

4 - Predator Control

Dave and Graeme had recently walked around Sam's and Morgan's Gullies with Dylan and Natasha from Conservation Volunteers, and Rory from Regional Parks. We will soon have lines of possum/stoat traps running top to bottom in Morgan's and Sam's. (Should be completed by the end of Feb.

There will be training available for volunteers. Committee members were asked to contact anybody they think would like to volunteer to monitor the traplines.

5 – Trees

Discussion on recent large pines fallen across beach track. Rodney agreed that it was probably time that Parks commissioned Cherie to do another review of possibly vulnerable trees.

Poisoned pines and small fire on Stoddart Point – no more information had come to light, following earlier circulated report. There has been good communications from us on such incidents and the committee recorded its thanks for the fast response from Parks.

6 – Other business

Fly tipping/sneaky dumping – there didn't seem to have been any action following an incident in November. This was filmed by Pete and the details sent to Parks. Paul said he'd confirm the rego of the vehicle.

Tom reported on the work done by Church Bay volunteers on the zig zag track above the sewage plant, and other places along the cliff track. One volunteer had cleared Koromiko Reserve Track and there had been some repair work also.

Dangerous spots – Purau section and Church Bay - Tom to talk to Nick about these spots, as well as about Tom Adams suggestions for realigning the cliff track next to his house at 17 Koromiko Cres.

Purau foreshore – Paul reported that volunteers had been scanning to look for middens, cemeteries – work which he'll be more involved with in his new Ngati Wheke job.

Head to Head – Purau Bay section – planting and fencing (to be finished soon) plus more trees. CCC Planners to talk to owners about next parts of path this year.

Confirm a secretary – we will enquire about a new secretary for the Reserve Committee, so that we can ensure 100% attendance at meetings.

Meeting ended 8.30 pm.

Next meeting – Monday March 25th, 7pm