

Saratoga/ Miracle Beach Residents Association (SAMBRA)

Minutes of Meeting

Held Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 7:00 PM – Black Creek/Oyster Bay Fire Hall
2241 Catherwood Road, Black Creek

Call to order: The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed the people attending.

Minutes of Meeting held April 8, 2014 have been circulated – M/S/C: to approve Minutes as circulated.

Reports:

1. Financial Report – The Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$1264.35 following:

- a payment of \$25 to BC Registry Services to file SAMBRA's annual report
- receipt of a Grant-in-Aid in the amount of \$300 from the Comox Valley Regional District

2. Local Area Plan – The Chair of the Local Area Plan Committee reported that it is likely that the draft Official Community Plan and Local Area Plan will be presented to our community in October. Some discussion followed about:

- Boundaries for the LAP; e.g. same as the boundaries for the settlement node? Will it encompass the Seaview Road area?
- Other concerns related to development in this area; e.g. is there sufficient water to serve a larger population? Should it be a "settlement node"?

New Business

1. Oyster River – The Chair introduced a resident of the York Road area who outlined recent activities on or near the Oyster River:

- 2,000 acre cattle ranch (Island Valley Farms) near Black Creek and Hamm Road/Inland Island Highway intersection, owned by a US company that has 5 operations and about 20,000 acres of land on Vancouver Island.
- Application from Hillsborough Resources (Quinsam Coal) to explore for coal in the Woodhus Creek/Oyster River area – not yet approved; if permit is issued the plan is to begin exploration work in the spring or fall of 2015. The fear is that drilling test sites and potential coal mine(s) will have negative impact on fisheries, wells, and water supply for our area. Patricia has written a letter to the Provincial Inspector of Mines outlining her concerns. (Note: For a copy of this letter, contact pearl_mckenzie@telus.net)

There was agreement to learn more about and monitor both developments as they potentially affect our watershed as well as land use and traffic patterns.

2. Black Creek/Oyster Bay Water Supply – The Chair outlined a recent problem with this water system, which serves residents of Area C in the Comox Valley Regional District and Area D in the Strathcona Regional District and does NOT include Watutco, a private water system:

- During summer months, normal practice is to switch from use of wells to an infiltration system under the Oyster River. When they did so this summer, the water was turbid so the water system is relying on drawing water from the wells until they can identify the source of the problem. The CVRD has no concern about the quality of the water or amount of water available for fighting fires or servicing residents.

Some local people are looking at water from a sustainability perspective and believe that there is a need to examine the issues more closely. To that end, SAMBRA members are documenting concerns and organizing a meeting with Brenda Leigh, Director for Area D, Strathcona Regional District and Edwin Grieve, Director of Area C, Comox Valley Regional District.

Further Information about this meeting, when it is scheduled, and the Local Area Plan/Official Community Plan process can be found on SAMBRA's website at WWW.SAMBRA.CA.

Adjournment: M/C: to adjourn the meeting at 8:52.

Next SAMBRA Meeting: To be announced

Contact Curtis Scoville, SAMBRA Chairperson, if you have items you would like placed on the agenda of the next meetings or have questions. Phone 250 337-1986 or email: YourSAMBRA@outlook.com