

Minutes of the Meeting of the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine Heritage Advisory Commission held Wednesday February 6, 2013, in the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine Board Room, 300 - 4545 Lazelle Avenue, Terrace, BC, commencing at 7:00 pm.

Members in Attendance

Kelsey Wiebe, member at large (in person)
Joanne Monaghan, member at large (on teleconference)
Louise Avery, Kitimat area member (on teleconference)
Leslie Prpich, member at large (on teleconference)
Maggie Carew, Hazelton area member (on teleconference)
Shirley Rosichuk, Stewart/Nass area member (on teleconference)

Members Absent

Web Bennett, Terrace area alternate
Walter Thorne, Kitimat area alternate
Amanda Marshall, Terrace area member
Amanda Jacobs, Dease Lake/Telegraph Creek area member
Shannon Hurst Hazelton area alternate (in person)

Regional District Representatives in Attendance

Ken Newman, Planner (in person)
Dave Brocklebank, Board Director (on teleconference).

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Selection of Acting Chair

In the absence of Shannon Hurst, Kelsey Wiebe was selected as Acting Chair.

Introduction

Kelsey welcomed the members to the meeting. Ken introduced Shirley Rosichuk as the new member representing the Stewart/Nass area and Dave Brocklebank as the new Board Director appointed to Commission. The remaining of the members introduced themselves to the new members.

Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Louise Avery/Maggie Carew to adoption agenda as presented.

Carried

Adoption of Minutes from the July 26, 2012, Meeting

Moved by Joanne Monaghan/Louise Avery to adopt the minutes of July 26, 2012 as presented.

Carried

Heritage Site Final Statements of Significance

The members had a brief discussion about the final versions of the statements of significance (SOS) for the three heritage sites (Dorreen, Pacific and Meanskinisht).

Dave B. asked if any of the sites included private land. Ken stated that all three sites involve private land. When heritage sites are recognized by a local government under Local Government Act legislation, the local government must notify the private land owner in writing. Recognizing a heritage site on private land does not put any obligations or restrictions on the private land owner. Only if a site is designated by a heritage designation bylaw under the Local Government Act can there be any obligations or restrictions applied to the land owner. The Local Government Act distinctly differentiates between recognition and designation.

Moved by Joanne Monaghan/Leslie Prpich that the statements of significance for Dorreen Station and General Store, Pacific Roundhouse and the Meanskinisht Cemetery, be accepted and recommend that the Regional District Board recognize each as a heritage site by adding them to the Regional District's Community Heritage Registry.

Carried

Heritage Interpretive Sign Project

The members reviewed the final versions of the interpretive heritage signs for Meziadin Fish Ladders, Gunanoot, Yukon Telegraph Line and Telegraph Creek.

Dave B. asked if some additional wording to the Telegraph Creek sign about how the community was significant access point for the US Military when they were building the Alaska Highway in the 1940s. Ken said he would see if he could fit something in but noted that there was not a lot of room available for more text.

Ken noted that these signs would be installed by May or June 2013.

Moved by Louise Avery/Joanne Monaghan that the interpretive signs for Meziadin Fish Ladders, Gunanoot and the Yukon Telegraph Line be accepted and that the sign for Telegraph Creek also be accepted with possible additions to the text regarding the US Military using Telegraph Creek as an access for building the Alaska Highway during WW II.

Carried

Heritage Registry Site considerations

Ken reminded the members that they should be considering what they want to do for 2013. If they want to be working toward adding new sites to the community heritage registry they should be thinking of possible sites and be mindful that they need to be consistent with the Regional District Heritage themes (see Heritage Implementation Plan) and the criteria for heritage site selection (see Community Heritage Values report). If members don't choose to add sites to the heritage registry in 2013 they may want to pursue other heritage projects such as interpretive signs.

Ken noted that in 2011 the Terrace Rod and Gun club had nominated the WW II gun range bunkers on their property but the Commission had not made a decision regarding this

site. Recently there had been some conversation about if the Rod and Gun club still wanted to pursue this.

Action: Ken will follow up with Terrace Rod and Gun club about whether they still would like the WW II gun range bunkers added to the heritage registry.

Maggie asked if the cemetery at on Six Mile road in Two Mile (near Hazelton) could be added to the Heritage Resources list.

Dave B. noted that the old townsite of Telegraph Creek had been added to the Community Heritage Registry and wonder if because of this the School Board could be stopped from removing or selling the old school house. Dave noted that there are a number of buildings in Telegraph Creek that are falling into disrepair and the owners of the properties (RCMP, Catholic Church etc..) at some time where asked by someone in the community that they do not remove the building for community heritage reasons and wondered what the Heritage Commission could do about such sites. Dave also noted that there had been some discussion about developing a heritage tourism plan for Telegraph Creek at the Regional District Economic Development Commission.

Ken explained that Telegraph Creek townsite was only recognized as a heritage site in 2009 and has not been designated under the Local Government Act and therefore if the property owner wanted to remove a building or sell a property they certainly could. However, if the Regional District Board wanted to have some control over what modification can be done to a property they could by bylaw designate the property a heritage site under Section 967 of the local Government Act but this usually requires negotiation with the property owner and may result in some form of compensation.

Action: Ken to speak to Andrew Webber about Telegraph Creek heritage preservation and heritage tourism development opportunities.

Heritage Site Notations of Interest

Ken updated the members about the attempts to get a notation of interest (NOI) Crown land tenures for the Meziadin Fish Ladder site, the Gunanoot Graveyard Point site and for Yukon Telegraph Cabin No. 1 site.

Heritage Commission Member Terms update

Ken informed the members that Louise Avery and Joanne Monaghan's terms as Commission members had expired and that they had served 3 consecutive terms on the Commission and where not eligible for another term. Ken thanked Louise and Joanne for their contributions and willingness to be on the Commission since its inception. He will soon be recruiting for replacements.

Louise said she would be attending a Kitimat heritage committee meeting soon and would see if anyone would be interested in being the Kitimat representative on the commission.

New Business

Leslie had typed up and sent by e-mail a style sheet that would be used as a word guide for future documents that the commission would be responsible for. Leslie noted that this is an evolving list and words can be added or removed over time as seen fit by the commission. Ken informed the members that the minutes of past heritage commission meetings are now available in the heritage section of the Regional District’s web site.

Dave B. noted that the Old Skeena Bridge was a heritage site and that a few years ago the Regional District Board sent a letter to CN Rail about painting the bridge because it felt it was unsightly. Dave was wondering if there had been any response to the letter and if there should also be a letter from the heritage commission.

Action: Ken will speak to Andrew Webber to find out if there was any response to the Board’s letter about painting the old Skeena Bridge.

Dave B. asked about how cemeteries on Crown land and who will or can take responsibility for the maintenance and management. In particular he was speaking to the Telegraph Creek cemetery on the hill above old Telegraph which has some historical value.

Action: Ken will do some research to find out the ownership situation of the Telegraph cemetery and will try to find out how cemeteries on Crown land as dealt with.

Dave B. noted that on the Yukon Telegraph Line heritage sign that there was a telegraph operator by the name of Jim Hodder. For many years the small lake just south of Bell II had always been known as Hodder Lake to those travelling Hwy 37 and the sign by the lake also said Hodder Lake. Some time ago the name of the lake was changed from Hodder Lake to Mehan Lake by the province. He wanted to know why the province changed the name.

Action: Ken will try and find out about the naming of Mehan Lake.

Next Meeting

Likely in May or June and it will be an in person meeting.

Adjournment

MOVED by Joanne Monaghan that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Carried

Chairperson

Recording Secretary

Date