

**The Corporation of the Village of Cumberland
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**



**May 29, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 2675 Dunsmuir Avenue**

Council Present: Mayor Vickey Brown
Councillor Neil Borecky
Councillor Jesse Ketler
Councillor Sean Sullivan
Councillor Troy Therrien

Staff Present: Michelle Mason, Chief Administrative Officer
Rachel Parker, Corporate Officer
Kevin McPhedran, Manager of Parks and Recreation
Courtney Simpson, Manager of Development Services
Rob Crisfield, Manager of Operations
Annie Berard, Chief Financial Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and recognized the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation and offered gratitude for the care and stewardship of this land since time immemorial.

2. Agenda

2.1 Agenda for Committee of the Whole meeting, May 29, 2023

Motion 23-COTW

Moved by: Borecky

Seconded by: Therrien

THAT the Committee approve the agenda for the May 29, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Carried Unanimously

3. Delegations

3.1 Comox Lake Lower Perseverance Conservation Lands planning process

Ms. Norcross-Nu'u and Ms. Cursons presented background information and update on the conservation lands at Comox Lake, including the history of the land acquisition by the Comox Valley Region District for the purposes of watershed protection, the planning documents supporting the conservation process, the re-evaluation of risks to the watershed, partnership between adjacent landowners being the Comox Valley Regional District, the Cumberland Community Forest Society and the Village of Cumberland and the opportunity to concur on common values for conservation.

Noted was damage to the landscape due to high impact activity on the lands and the target of education on the ecological value of the land, with steps including on-site signage, security patrols, and information-sharing. Next steps include the formal designation of the conservation area and to formalize partner participation, including the Village of Cumberland and staff time for this participation.

Discussion took place on the lack of opportunity for the Village to participate in past watershed protection planning, risk assessments, and the purchase of the land, as well as the Village's role in land use planning around Comox Lake and recreational access controlled by the Village. Further discussion also took place on the re-evaluation of risk rating without Council consultation and access to information on these decisions. Discussion then took place on the fire risks from on-site hazards, and any impact of the coal overburden on site.

Motion 23-COTW

THAT the Committee receive the delegation from the Cumberland Community Forest Society and the Comox Valley Regional District regarding Comox Lake Lower Perseverance Conservation Lands planning process.

4. Reports

4.1 Education and Outreach Strategy for Cumberland Community Forest and Coal Creek Historic Park

Mr. McPhedran introduced Ms. Cursons to present the strategy to move towards a more managed approach to Village parks for the protection of the natural environment. Ms. Cursons presented the strategy to engage the education community for a solution-centred approach to address the ecological health of the Cumberland Community Forest Park and Coal Creek Historic Park. Work to date has included conversations with user groups, trails management and signage for forest trail identification, trail etiquette, assessment of user impacts. The goal is to make stronger relationships between users and solution-work with connections with teachers and students and community. Key recommendation areas include education, signage and mapping, policy and permitting, restoration and regeneration, and shorter trail loops and gathering spaces in the lower forest.

Discussion took place on the local context and value of resources from other communities, the value of data collection and anecdotal information, a change in perception of what kind of parks these are, and youth engagement through science.

Motion 23-COTW

Moved by: Borecky

Seconded by: Therrien

THAT the Committee receive a presentation from Meaghan Cursons, Executive Director, Cumberland Community Forest Society, on the Education and Outreach Strategy for Cumberland Community Forest and Coal Creek Historic Park.

Carried Unanimously

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

6. Closed Portion

Motion 23-COTW

Moved by: Sullivan

Seconded by: Borecky

THAT Council close the meeting to the public at 2:58 p.m. pursuant to Section 90 of the Community Charter to consider:

(c) labour relations or other employee relations;

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

(l) discussions with municipal officers and employees respecting municipal objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 [annual municipal report];

Carried Unanimously

7. Adjournment

Motion 23-COTW

Moved by: Ketler

Seconded by: Therrien

THAT Council adjourn the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

Mayor

Certified Correct by Corporate Officer