



Elphinstone Community Association

elphinstonecommunity19@gmail.com

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Serving the Elphinstone Community since 1971

General Meeting March 15, 2023 – 7 PM Frank West Hall Minutes

Executive	Rod Moorcroft – President	Clint Budd – Vice President
	Trish Wray – Treasurer	Clint Budd / Lucie McKiernan – Secretary
	René Mandigo – Membership	Ben Foster - Director
		Janet Oxley – Director
Regrets	Tamara Hedden	
	Brian Thicke	
Members	Estimated at general meeting	25

1. Call to Order	Called to order at 7:04pm.	Action by
2. Agenda	Item #6 – Elphinstone Ditch Clean-up was added to New Business. Motion to adopt – Dougal/Merrily - carried	
3. Guest Speaker	Presentation by Angela Kroning – see below for notes.	Angela
4. Director’s report	Update from SCRD Director Donna McMahon – see below for notes.	Donna
5. Adoption of previous minutes	The minutes from February 15 th , 2023 were accepted as circulated.	



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6. Correspondence	None to report.	
7. Reports		
1. President	A question was raised - do we need a motion to accept previous minutes and the Treasurer's report? Robert's Rules states "If there are no contentious changes to the minutes or there is no audit involved for the Treasurer's report, no motions are required." This rule will be followed in future.	Rod
2. Vice Pres.	No report.	Clint
3. Treasurer	As of Feb 28, 2023- chequing \$2,902.20; savings \$14.56; shares \$158.53. Following the board recommendation Trish will move \$1,000 from chequing to savings.	Trish
4. Secretary	Frank West Hall is confirmed for in-person meetings for April and May. Our AGM will be held at the April meeting and the guest speakers will be two representatives from Sunshine Coast Hospice Society. Ashley St. Clair, SCR D Alternate Director will be our speaker for May. Please renew your membership and attend these meetings now that we are back to meeting in person. Your membership dues support the cost of hall rentals and required insurance.	Lucie
5. Membership	As of today there are 112 names on the roster with approximately 50 left to renew before the AGM in May.	René



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6. PAC	<p>My apologies for not attending in person, I was looking forward to doing so!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cedar Grove along with all other SD46 schools are currently on spring break, our students & staff return on Monday March 27th 2023. • Our PAC has approved my attendance at the in-person BCCPAC conference and annual AGM in Richmond May 5th - 7th at the Westin hotel. I look forward to this conference each year & this will be my 4th attending but first in person. • Cedar Grove will be getting our Slow Down signs back in early April & we couldn't be happier about it! • We currently have 2 fundraisers running - Purdy's & Growing Smiles. I will post both fundraisers on our local EAC page. • Our lantern festival will return on Friday May 26th 5pm -8pm. More details to follow. • Cedar Grove is happy to announce we are now offering Mommas Perogies in our hot lunch program starting mid April! Another local Family run business! • Cedar Grove is advertising currently regarding idle-free BC as we use Frank West parking lot for drop off & pickup up & have had parents leave vehicles running during these colder days & emissions could be smelled on our playground! • Our next PAC meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023 at 7pm in person in our school's library. <p>Thank you so much & looking forward to seeing you all in person next meeting.</p>	Tamara
7. APC	<p>The new APC members will meet March 17th for orientation session. There was no meeting in March to report on.</p>	Rod
Comm Reports		



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Chaster House / Park Standing Comm.	<p>Representatives from both ECA and OBENA reviewed the situation with SCRD. The SCRD is hoping to hire a consultant engineer to review Chaster House and make some recommendations.</p> <p>Brian would like to have more people interested in the future of Chaster House to join this committee whose mandate is to look at ways of saving the property.</p>	Rod for Brian
Website Standing Comm.	<p>Decisions need to be made for which documents will be public on the website – e.g., do we want agendas/minutes to be public? David will be invited to board meeting for further discussion. Recommendations will be brought back to the membership. If you have any input please get hold of Clint and/or David. See detailed notes below.</p>	Clint & David
Socials Standing Comm.	No report.	Clint
Trails Standing Comm.	Noted that when the sub-division is complete on Hough Rd there is a good chance for the walking trail to go right through.	Rod for Brian
Area E Roads Standing Comm.	<p>New MoTI rep receives thanks for addressing some of the concerns on Gower Point Road. If you see anything to report please contact René through the Elphinstone email. Both Janet and René are working on issues with roads – please connect with either of them.</p>	René
Forestry / Watershed Standing Comm.	BCTS meeting of stakeholders to be held on March 22– they want to log in the watershed. Herman is planning a meeting at his house on March 16 to strategize and then a representative group will attend the meeting on Friday. You are welcome to join.	Herman
Vision/Mission Ad hoc Committee	Janet handed out copies of the proposal for a new Vision/ Mission statement for our association. The committee would like input with a view to passing this at the AGM. Please contact Janet.	Janet



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8. Old Business	<p>945 Gower Point Road Derelict Cabin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An old derelict cabin sits on the beach below the property at 945 Gower Point Road. This is basically Secret Beach. • Elphinstone resident Sandra Coll first reported that this old cabin has been there a while and is constantly being vandalized by groups of partiers who strew the beach with debris and light fires that are too close to vegetation. No-one seems to want to take responsibility for owning this building although the suspicion is that it was likely built by someone living close by at some time in the past. • Sandra has written to the SCRD and MLA Nicholas Simons; Rod has spoken with the fire department who have conducted an inspection and Lucie has spoken with SCRD By-laws. • The upshot of all this is that the issue is now in the hands of the Natural Resources Officer in Sechelt. This seems to be the most likely area to help us. The property is on Crown Land. We are hoping some authority will assist us rather than everyone just passing the problem as not their responsibility. • Faye Kiewitz who writes the Elphinstone Chronicles article in the Coast Reporter has written about the issue and included a photograph. • So far Sandra has followed up with the NRO but not heard anything. • If anyone has information that might be helpful with regard to this, please send an email to the Elphinstone email at elphinstonecommunity19@gmail.com. 	Lucie
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9. New Business	<p>1. Forestry questionnaire – was sent out to the members. There was a problem reported with this link. A working link is below in Herman Ziltner’s report.</p> <p>2. Elphinstone / Chaster Creek watershed study – see notes.</p> <p>3. BCTS meeting – see notes. Herman, Colleen, Angela, Rod and Suzanne will attend. 10-12pm March 22nd Teredo Square.</p> <p>4. Signs for beaches re fires – grant application – tabled.</p> <p>5. Lot Y – subdivision going in above Ben’s property – worried about runoff problems and his ditch. Above Grandview below Chaster – all runoff will be directed into one culvert down their drive. Proposal is for 7 acre development on quite steep hillside – 12 lots. They have written letters and will walk the neighbourhood and get people involved.</p> <p>6. Ditch clean up from Donna’s newsletter - Volunteers, equipment, and pick-up trucks are all wanted for a ditch clean up on Saturday, March 25 from 10:30 am to 12:30. Volunteers will gather in the parking lot of Cedar Grove Elementary. The SCR D is providing bags and some equipment, but if you have a safety vest or a grabber, please bring it! Even if you are not up for climbing into ditches (gumboots recommended!), you can still help by sorting out the recycling. To volunteer, or to suggest ditches that really need our attention, please contact Lee Carter.</p> <p>7. Speakers – see Secretary’s report.</p> <p>8. Notice of motion – Moved that ECA book all third Wednesdays for ECA in person meetings. This does not mean we have to meet in person, we may decide to meet on Zoom if there are health or weather concerns. Lucie will look into hall availability for June, Sept, Oct, Nov and check on cancellation policy.</p>	<p>Rod Angela Angela/ Herman</p> <p>Rod Ben</p> <p>Lucie Rod/Lucie</p>
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10. Next meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board April 12, 2023 on Zoom 2. AGM April 19th Frank West Hall 7pm – Two speakers from Sunshine Coast Hospice will join us. 3. Board May 10th on Zoom 4. General May 24th Frank West Hall 7pm (note change of date) 5. Board June 14th on Zoom 6. General June 14th Location TBA 7. No meetings July and August except the Summer Social TBD 	
11. Adjournment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. 	

Angela Kroning – Chaster Creek and the Elphinstone Watershed

- ECA sent a letter Feb 27 to support SCRD budget line item of \$150,000 to complete Mount Elphinstone hydrological study. This study is needed – we need protection for aquifer 560 – how it works, recharges, leaking and how creeks adapt. The Town of Gibsons is planning to look at this so it made sense for SCRD to participate with the Town, hence the support for the line item.
- Angela very interested in stream stability of Chaster Creek. Since 2018 have done spawning studies – each year more erosion happening – would like to know why. Damage already done to the creek affecting Bonniebrook Lodge and Chaster House – Angela had photos to illustrate.
- Blockages affect salmon trying to get upstream.
- Landslide at the end of Kearton during the atmospheric river. She thinks this is human caused. Without knowing what the creek flow is solutions can't be implemented. We can't afford to have increase in the flow.
- More photos - bottom of Harry Rd – King tide combined with peak flow from creek and high winds damaged the foreshore.
- Photo of creek - east side ravine looking west – new debris flow. Some trickling water. This happened after leaves were down. She doesn't think it's caused by the subdivision at the top of Bonniebrook Hts Rd but when they start actually building, we'll see. Any salmon eggs are buried.
- The funding has been reduced to \$10,000 and approved. SCRD will host a forum for all stakeholders – Forests, MoTI, Town of Gibsons, RD. Squamish Nation to explain their role within the watershed. The meeting will include reps from ECA. Donna has asked staff to respond to the letter from ECA - SCRD wary of taking on functions that really are provincial.
- Donna – appreciated Angela and Brian for all their work. Also, Hermann has battled this for many years. Everyone is going to have to pitch in. We need photos, etc.



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- If you see damage happening to a salmon bearing creek contact the Observe Record Report (ORR) line: dfo.orr-ons.mpo@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or call toll free 1-800-465-4336 or in greater Vancouver call 604-607-4186. Information about trout bearing creeks goes to Report All Polluters and Poachers (RAPP) - 1-877-952-RAPP (7277). We are still suffering from the loss of the DFO office in Pender Harbour.

Rod – acknowledged Angela and Brian and help from Suzanne Senger SCCA for the letter draft – hope that next year we can fight for more funds.

Herman Ziltener - BCTS Mount Elphinstone Watershed Assessment Meeting

BCTS has released the final draft of the Mount Elphinstone Watershed Assessment Phase I and II report. It is 220 pages long and if you are interested you can find it here: https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/TCH/external/!publish/InformationSharing/Mt_Elphinstone_South_Watershed_Assessment/

- Report includes flow and geological surveys. Maps show wells, licences, culverts. Gunther worried about the report seems to indicate that they are going ahead with logging. An independent study would have helped but we are not going to get this.
- They will present this on Wednesday March 22 – a committee from ECA will be attending including Angela, Herman, Colleen Clark, Rod and Suzanne Senger, SCCA. They will also present to the SCRD on March 23.
- A suggestion from the floor to bring the community together to identify the problems – not just Chaster Creek – people could identify issues on their walks.
- We need to push for more watershed studies. No way we can allow more clear cutting that will increase the creek flow.
- No indication that the BCTS folks did any onsite visits or met with any stakeholders.
- Meeting at Herman's home Thursday March 16 in preparation for the Friday meeting. Suzanne will be present to assist. All are welcome.

Donna McMahon SCRD Director – Update

- Newsletter March 10 – please sign up for it.
- At the April 19 general meeting she'll do budget walkthrough – bring your tax statements.
- Challenging term with newly electeds to onboard. Donna has taken on more responsibilities as a returning member.
- Deferred issues include: water, landfill, Regional Hospital District. There is no way for us to advocate for our needs to VCH and all hospital districts feeling the same. Donna is on the Hospital Board this year. We need to address issues such as what is happening with Totem and Shorncliffe after Trellis opens late this year?
- New legislation is expected from the province.
- Community issues such as the Coopers Green re-development in Halfmoon Bay that affect all taxpayers in the SCRD.



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- Minor B hockey – want to renovate Gibsons Rec Centre to accommodate a hockey league. Question is who will end up responsible?
- BC Timber Sales – they have a delegation scheduled for the Mar 23 SCRD meeting. Their past meetings with SCRD were always in camera, so at least this is public. There is also a public meeting on April 6 via zoom. If you are interested in attending let Donna know.
- Mon 2nd intergovernmental meeting on water with new Chief and council of the shishalh Nation. This was a good opportunity for all four govts to meet together with the MLA. Important to find common direction.
- Met with MoTI – formally met Gundula Brigl – impressed, she has good experience and is hitting the ground running. The issue of road line painting on Pratt Road was raised. Official contact for Capilano Highways is Andrew McKay. Survey crews Chaster/Pratt intersection for design concepts out to Gospel Rock. S bend on Gower Point Road – will be a difficult fix, not going to get done in 2023. Elphinstone Avenue over by Grantham’s Hall – no ditch was put in as required because of Fortis line. Hence the flooding. They will try to keep the website updated for road conditions on Hwy 101.
- Orientation was held for new APCs.
- Today she attended the stream keeper tea at the hatchery – new DFO Community Liaison introduced. First time for 20 years. He doesn’t do enforcement. His mandate is to work with stream keepers to support salmon.
- Lunch and learn with Emergency Management Coordinator Nancy Hughes. She presented to West Howe Sound Community Association – we might benefit from this. We are looking into this for a summer meeting.
- Emergencies – Donna is moderating panel in her role with AVICC (Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities) – new legislation is coming which will give local governments much more responsibility will require RD’s to plan for vulnerable people – we currently have no capacity. Will have to work with VCH. Also, a question of financial resources.
- Salmon release Sat of May long weekend.

Q and A

George – culvert situation on GPR halfway between Pratt and Clark – Donna will email Gundula again. We have many problems with aging culverts. This one is serious. She’s striking a committee on advocacy for Elphinstone issues.

Dougal - abandoned car near Swallow – they’ve contacted everyone. Law says vehicle should be moved after 72hrs but has now been there 6 months. It’s a danger, needs to be moved. What can be done? Donna suggests contacting Gundula but hard to get towed as nowhere to deposit them. Hoping to get District of Sechelt to accept these and get them towed over to mainland. Another suggestion was to contact ICBC for advice, since the vehicle owner is identified.

Dougal – Mahon well, Marianne West well – neither considered because they might adversely affect aquifer, any comment? Donna noted that Marianne West well will be tested this year. Mahan well not



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doable due to risks according to the last Mayor. Donna will have word with new mayor. Capacity is an issue – it's a challenge to get qualified staff and big costs coming at them.

Rod – recent money and small percentage for RD's. Donna is frustrated that province doesn't understand RDs. She continues to advocate for legislative reform. Letter writing to our MLA might help.

Rod – re hockey players - suggested estimating the cost and giving them how much extra taxes would be needed to cover it.

Loretta – concern about pedestrians crossing north/south at the light top of Pratt/Hwy101. Left turn light on the east/west side only. It's risky for pedestrians. Donna indicated this is a MoTI responsibility – Rod will send Loretta Gundula's contact information.

Committee Reports

Website Reports 1 and 2 - David

Hi guys. I wanted to provide an informal written report for the next board meeting so that everyone has a common proposal and set of requests to refer to.

- I encourage everyone to visit the site and think about what is important to include with the objective of 1) making it easy to find information and 2) driving up engagement with ECA.
- The top level menu is mostly the same as what I inherited, with the addition of a "Projects" tab, a calendar, and some minor content rearranging. Most of the pages currently show as under construction, with many of the original submenu items not yet visible on hover.
- The top level menu at present:

Home About Us History News Community Resources Projects Calendar Contact Us

Content and submenus (requested or proposed content in parens. Categories may shift depending on available content.)

Home: standard landing page

About Us: Board of Directors, Membership, Meetings, Documents, Area E map

History: (content needed)

News: Everything Elphinstone, ECA news/announcements, (Local media, Elphinstone Chronicles links, anything else?)

Community: (content needed - other neighbourhood associations, charities, mutual aid groups, issues advocacy groups, ??)

Resources: (content needed - local businesses, farms, service providers, ??)

Projects: (Current w/ volunteer opportunities, Past w/ reports and photos)

Calendar: Large main calendar, plus small calendar in sidebar on some pages. (There's capability for board or community members to add events or submit events subject to approval.)

Contact Us: (Preferred method is via secure forms.)

Needs in order of priority:



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1. **Access to the server.** I need this to set up security for contact forms and/or create email forwarders for the contact page, and do some search engine optimization stuff.
2. **Current Board member bios** so I can update that page - although if it's likely to change again in a month I guess we should hold off.
3. **Photos.** We can never have too many photos, preferably large high-resolution ones. You can email what you have as attachments to me directly at webmaster@elphinstonecommunity.ca . If you can compress the files that would be great, but it's not critical.
4. **Any public facing documents** that should be under About Us
5. **Decision about posting internal documents** - agendas, minutes, treasurer reports, etc - and if we want to have a password protected section for that purpose.

And finally, this is a question for Clint about the hosting situation. I see that Geek in the Creek's services includes server set up and management, and you mentioned that you thought the actual hosting company was located in Oregon. Is it by any chance Acornhost? I've had a few sites hosted with them, it's a great small woman-owned company.

What's the relationship with GITC, was it a one-time set up or do you have a contract for ongoing services? I'd rather have direct access to the server if that can be arranged and not have to go through a third party, but he may not want to do that if he's contracted for management. Please let me know either way.

Thanks all!

David