



Elphinstone Community Association

elphinstonecommunity19@gmail.com

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Serving the Elphinstone Community since 1971

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

Executive	Clint Budd – Vice President, Co-Secretary and Chair for this meeting	Lucie McKiernan – Co-Secretary
	Trish Wray – Treasurer	Tamara Hedden - PAC
	René Mandigo – Membership	Janet Oxley – Director
	Brian Thicke – Director	
Absent	Rod Moorcroft – President	Ben Foster – Director
	David Weintraub – Webmaster	
Members	Estimated at general meeting	24 attendees including guest and Director

1. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Clint gave the land acknowledgement: I would like to acknowledge that we as Area E residents are meeting on the unceded lands of the Squamish First Nation and further acknowledge our closest neighbours Sechelt First Nation. We appreciate their cooperative sharing and will continue to support working toward reconciliation.	Action by Clint
2. Agenda	Motion: to adopt the agenda as presented - Trish/ Anna – carried.	All
3. Guest Speaker	Nancy Hughes, Coordinator, Emergency Management Program, SCRD – see below for notes on Nancy’s presentation.	
4. Director’s report	See below for notes on Donna’s report.	Donna



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5. Adoption of previous minutes	<p>Motion: to adopt the minutes of the general meeting held on October 18, 2023 – Lucie/Trish – carried.</p> <p>Please note minutes are available to members on our website - https://elphinstonecommunity.ca</p>	
6. Correspondence	None.	
7. Reports		
1. President	No report.	Rod
2. Vice Pres.	<p>Clint noted that when the President is away the Vice President steps in to chair the meeting – what then happens if the VP is not available? He proposed adding to our Procedures a formal process to cover this occurrence through the follow motion:</p> <p>Motion: Moved that a succession order for the position of chair be as follows – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer – Clint/Tamara – carried.</p> <p>During the discussion Clint reviewed the current Procedures. This addition would apply to all meetings and, if no officials are available, attendees wait for 15 minutes, after which they can elect someone present to chair the meeting.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Procedures are posted on the website and a quorum at any of our meetings is 5 members.</p>	Clint
3. Treasurer	<p>Chequing: \$2,374.20 Savings: \$1,018.78 Shares: \$138.53 Income: \$10.00 dues for a new member Expenses: \$31.50 for rental of hall</p> <p>Motion: to accept the Treasurer’s report – Trish/ René –</p>	Trish
4. Secretary	No report.	Lucie
5. Membership	100 members including two who joined tonight.	René



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6. PAC	<p>Tamara sent the following PAC update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November has already been such a busy fun month at CGES, we had photo retakes, class photos & our favorite school wide photo! • Our wonderfully talented Principal put together a CGES choir who sang two songs at our school wide Remembrance Day assembly. Grade 7 student speakers spoke on the history & current situations that have & are taking place in the world. They also reminded us to be respectful while in attendance (no speaking or hand clapping) well done CGES!! • We have our annual Book Bingo & Scholastic Book Fair taking place from Nov 27th - Dec 1st. This event is a student favorite! Keep your eyes out for a Book Fair parent volunteer sheet. • Nov 20th is a Pro D-day. • The GFD is hosting our annual egg drop competition on Wed Nov 29th. • We have Holiday fundraisers happening: Growing Smiles Holiday Poinsettias (closes Thursday Nov 16th) delivery date & pickup is Fri, Dec 1st; Purdy's Chocolates (closes Dec 3rd) delivery date is Dec 15th with pickup at the office starting the 18th. • NON-Fundraiser - our Holiday Merchandise pop up shop is open for orders until Nov 22nd, deliveries take up to 3 weeks and will be shipped to your personal mailing address. • CGES has chosen to stick with Johnses Yearbooks and we will be advertising sales shortly. • Team sports are back and currently we have both 4/5 & 6/7 volleyball teams. GO CGES!! • Our hot lunch orders for December need to be submitted by Nov 22nd. • We had a discussion from the DPAC about the best way to spend gaming grant funds. I have circulated to our executives as asked and they would like our feedback on Nov 23rd. Both Simon & myself will be in attendance at DPAC meeting. • Secret Santa is currently under way and I will be working with Mrs. McInnes closely to provide some Holiday cheer for our in-need students. This program is very near and dear to my heart!! 	Tamara
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7. APC	No report.	Anthony
Comm Reports		
Chaster House / Park Standing Comm.	<p>Chaster Park</p> <p>Brian followed up with SCRD, since Kevin Clarkson left efforts are stalled – Shelley Gagnon said they’d get someone to get in contact with us.</p> <p>Chaster House</p> <p>Plans will come back to community before the end of the year for us to comment. Suggestion to raise money for pro bono work to be done on this project– Janet suggested GoFundMe. Brian would like others to join the committee.</p>	Brian
Website Standing Comm.	No report.	David
Socials Standing Comm.	<p>No meeting in December. January 21 was scheduled for a Winter Social gathering – preference expressed for a potluck and for membership dues not to be spent on provisions for the event. Will likely be held at Frank West Hall. One suggestion is for a variety of board games and the committee would really welcome other suggestions – please contact Clint.</p> <p>Clint will get committee together and work on it – please let Clint know if you’d like to help.</p>	Clint
Trails Standing Comm.	<p>No report</p> <p>Merrily would like to work on Trails.</p> <p>What’s happening with Hough Rd trail up to the highway? Still waiting for the subdivision to become official. Should be fairly quick after the final approvals are finalized.</p>	Brian
Area E Roads Standing Comm.	<p>Nothing to report – keep reporting the ongoing issues to René.</p> <p>Tamara has encouraged all the neighbourhood groups around Woodcreek Park who would like a crosswalk on the highway to work together on this advocacy.</p>	René
Neighbourhood Associations	No reports.	



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8. Old Business	Update on SCRD liability insurance requirement – reported that the SCRD can provide liability insurance for small volunteer groups to do park cleanup. They will also coordinate with the FireSmart program for their input and the disposal people to remove the green waste.	Lucie
9. New Business	Ideas for potential future topics and speakers. We need your thoughts with contact information. If you have good ideas please contact the potential speaker, discuss it with them, obtain contact information and get back to Lucie who will schedule.	Clint
10. Next meetings	December – no meeting January 21, 2024 – Winter Social – Frant West Hall February 14 Board Meeting via zoom February 21 General Meeting – Frank West Hall	
11. Adjournment	Adjournment moved by Trish at 8:58pm	

Guest Speaker – Nancy Hughes, Emergency Management Coordinator, Emergency Management Program, SCRD

Nancy has been in her role for 15 months and brings her past 35 years’ experience in law enforcement with the RCMP emergency management centre. She has on the ground experience e.g., 2017 evacuation in Williams Lake. Her presentation was an overview of what is currently in place that is managed by this program.

- The program provides coordinated support for emergency management on the coast.
- Provides support for local statement of emergency – liaison for other partners and supports including provincial programs.
- Strong team 15 volunteers – 72-hour support can be available in emergency – e.g., house fire – the program is for people who don’t have insurance, is available 24/7 and can provide necessities such as food vouchers etc. Fire dept conducts triage to ascertain need and then makes a referral.
- Provides support for area wide emergencies in conjunction with Ham operators, Ground SAR, RCM-SAR and she does outreach and education.
- Emerg response plan – Nancy writes and updates – emergency strategies such as bottled water delivery for vulnerable population; debrief after emergencies and make improvements to operating procedures such as drought operation.
- They are not emergency responders; they are emergency managers – if you have an emergency call 911 – her group provides management and support through 911 if and when needed.



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- For natural disasters on private property – know who you need to contact: Provincial Ministries such as Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI); Forestry; Land Water Resources; Conservation; Federal Agencies such as Department of Fisheries (DFO); Utilities such as BC Hydro and FORTIS.
- Emergency preparedness – personal preparedness – household guide available with templates for plans so you can write your own plan.
- Neighbourhood preparedness – get to know neighbours and make a neighbourhood plan. Connect with the FireSmart program for tips to improve the safety of your property and neighbourhood.
- Community evacuation – SCRD take care of this.
- It is recommended that we be able to survive for 72 hours, but here in rural areas she recommends 144 hours.

Q - in snow people with disability can't get out – do they cover this?

A - it's a challenge. The person should contact SCRD for special needs. Also, neighbourhood preparedness can help with this. EMS will set up a reception centre – evacuees go to the centre to start and get help in finding somewhere else to stay. They have 200 cots available with what is needed. If power out for a long time, then they would set up a warming centre.

- They do have equipment in portables – they have good security there. Have changed security as they had a break in. They will move one up to Pender Harbour as well.
- Grab and go bag – she keeps hers under the bed plus sensible shoes; recommendations for contents -phone charger and battery bank, radio, first aid kit, emergency plan, seasonal clothing, food and water, flashlight, whistle. Keep a go bag at work as well. Don't leave snacks in car because of bears. Providers include: Red Cross, St Johns, local suppliers. Most of the readymade bags include a blanket, first aid. She recommends water purification tablets or bleach rather than worry about bottled water; water filters, meal replacement MRE can be purchased at outdoor stores - can get boxes with 2 days' supply, depends on preference and how much you want to spend. Other recommendations include high vis vest, headlamp. She has a small covid kit, personal hygiene kit. Glow sticks are ok but do expire; a cheap pair of reading glasses, medications – don't forget to cycle these and bottled water out. Don't forget the needs of pets. In the shelters they will have a fenced area for pets – bring your own pet carrier.
- Think about the possibility of having to walk a long way, hence the need for sensible shoes.

Q – does she work with the schools or plan to – PAC goes through the supplies they have at Cedar Grove – 241 students – does she have routines for the schools?

A – SC Emergency Program Committee works with someone from SD46 that has responsibility for emergency planning for schools – e.g., how many gallons of water would they need for specific schools – SD46 does a good job of preparedness – through the drought they had a great partnership.

- Neighbourhood prep – Household Guide – get to know neighbours and who might need special help, identify risks, what skills and resources are available, identify a safe meeting place – maybe someone has a big garage – assign responsibilities.



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- Voyent Alert – register now - <https://www.scrd.ca/> (Scroll Down to “Emergency Alert System”); <https://voyent-alert.com/ca/community/#registration>; SCR D will use it when needed and info goes out in multiple media and through groups. In addition, there is a separate provincial alert that goes directly to people’s phones.
- You can check EmergencyInfoBC: - Online, at **EmergencyInfoBC.ca**; On Twitter, at **@EmergencyInfoBC**
- More information is available at - **GETPREPARED.GC.CA**
- **PREPAREDBC** - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc>; **SCR D.CA** - <https://www.scrd.ca/emergency-program/>.
- Emergency Management is a life skill. SCR D putting together list of hazards- will be a foundation for Emergency Management Plan.
- Examples of recent local risks – fire (behind London Drugs, across from RCMP community station) – could have been bad, end of Aug this year fire dept got it under control before preplanning or evacuation was needed. Another fire NW of Sechelt – Sechelt dept went out and BC wildfire also responded – BC wildfire service do a flyover every morning looking for fires – during electrical storms there were several that popped up – she was advised, elected officials advised, put authorities on standby , then contacted RCMP to let them know they might be evacuating west Sechelt – RCMP make sure everyone evacuates in an orderly fashion , also engage with volunteers.
- 3 stages of evac – 1) Alert (get ready, grab and go kit etc) – be ready to leave on short notice; 2) Evacuation Order you are at risk, leave the area immediately; 3) Evacuation Rescinded, you can leave the area and return home. – RCMP will help get people back in in an orderly fashion.
- Evacuation planning on the Sunshine Coast – currently have a high level, overarching plan for three hub areas – Gibsons, Pender Harbour and Sechelt. It is very unlikely that an evacuation of the whole coast would be needed. For example, with a fire we don’t have wide open grassland, topography doesn’t lend itself to the whole coast going up – very low risk.

Q – how would people get out of places like Harry Rd, there could be a vehicle jam?

A – they have three plans done – they will have muster stations on bus route for pickup, reception centres, Public Market is option, Harmony Hall – will depend on the emergency and where it is.

They can plan high level – at the time they look at the emergency and location and plan accordingly.

- They look at where the emergency is and draw a circle round. Then they plan within that area for what might be needed should the problem spread and people need to evacuate. - how many households in that area? – where can everyone go? – many people will make their own arrangements, then some can use group lodging. They work with other municipalities as well.
- They look at critical infrastructure within the map so they can begin to work with them on planning.
- RCMP and a team of volunteers go house to house if needed.



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- Work still to do/next steps – continue to update evac plan; work with local authorities for community evacuation planning; create a template for communities to help develop community evacuation plans from a community perspective; encourage personal and neighbourhood emergency preparedness; **encourage registration with Voyent Alert – please note this latter. Some people signed up for it right at the meeting. Please do it now if you haven't already.**
- They will be looking for input from local groups – she's hoping for some funding to hire an assistant. She wants to help groups work on a template so that it can be fine-tuned.
- Janet recommends John Vaillant's book Fire Weather. Nancy mentioned the evacuation out of Whitehorse which was very well planned. She feels BC is very well prepared.
- What is available to the public about the emergency planning is on the SCR D website – [Sunshine Coast Regional District \(scred.ca\)](http://scred.ca).

Q - Woodcreek Park has a plan – would she review?

A - She would like to but doesn't have the capacity right now.

Q – In an earthquake and road is severed – where would people be evacuated to – e.g. Davis Bay could people go out in boats?

A - The Sechelt Nation has a dock and can facilitate – there are some issues of liability re the use of small craft. Water taxis and professional boat owners are engaged with the planning – lots of agencies involved.

Q - would be good to know where there are corridors for people if they can't easily get through?

A – would likely be on the bus route. More work is needed on planning for different emergencies and local neighbourhood planning.

Nancy had several useful handouts available and directed me to this link for a new handout on winter preparedness -

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/preparedbc/preparedbc-guides/preparedbc_winter_guide.pdf

Take a look at the SCR D website for further information on how to be prepared for emergencies - [Sunshine Coast Regional District \(scred.ca\)](http://scred.ca).

SCR D Director's Report – Donna McMahan

- Newsletter will be out this weekend.
- SCR D – elects its Chair and Vice Chair every year - Len Lee has been re-elected as Chair. Donna stepped back from her Vice Chair role to give Alton Toth the opportunity. Alton is one of the District of Sechelt representatives. Donna feels they have a good team going forward.
- Utility Rates – water bill will increase; garbage remains the same for 2024.



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- Handydart survey is available until December 15 in order to evaluate the service. If you use or know someone who does Donna encourages them to give feedback. Also important for those with barriers to access to use the comments section. The survey is available on the SCRD website - [Have your say on handyDART | Let's Talk SCRD](#) - and hard copies are available at Gibsons Public Library.
- Donna also mentioned the Gibsons “Library of Things” – there are musical instruments, radar detector, sewing machine, telescope – very interesting take a look. Also, the library has a new workspace for quiet meetings.
- Private lot at 1908 Ocean Beach Esplanade – no official stop work order because no building permit as it has expired. This problem is on everyone’s radar and she hopes for some improvement.
- No update on sale of Sunnyside Park.
- Dakota Ridge crew looking for trail hosts for winter sports - [Sunshine Coast Regional District \(scrd.ca\)](#) - you can complete a form to volunteer.
- Strategic Plan – currently being edited.
- Budget discussions slated for Dec 4/5.
- Tomorrow – Electoral Area Services Committee meeting. Donna chairs– they will meet with a delegation from Sue Big Oil – they presented today to Capital Regional District in Victoria who are now looking at whether it’s feasible for Regional Districts to get involved with this process. Currently there is no legal clarity.

Q – what would it cost to support Sue Big Oil with municipal taxes?

A - \$1 per resident and only payable if lawsuit launches.

Q – re new provincial law proposals that will override all regs for building more housing – bottom line is you can’t build without sewers.

A - Sign up for her newsletter.

Q – Whispering Firs Park – overnight camping, white pickup been there for 2 years – SCRD said to contact highways – they have contacted but nothing happening.

A – eventually they will be asked to move on.

Q – what’s happening with the gas money that she said was available?

A – it’ll be in the budget. Feds give money to local govt – now called the Canada Building Community Fund – paid on a per capita basis for each electoral area in the RD – some discussion with MoTI re road upgrades and who does what. She has quite a bit of money waiting for clear direction. Priorities – Reed Rd between North and Payne and foot of Pratt where shoulder ends, she’d like to get these done when jurisdictional issues are resolved.

Q – how much is the water rate increasing?

A - Water going up \$65 on utility bill.