

Minutes of September 13, 2012 Gabriola Transportation Assn. Board Meeting

Present:

Jim Ramsay – President & Secretary
Randy Young – Vice-President
Erik Andersen – Treasurer
André Lemieux

Absent:

John Hodgkins

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

1. Minutes

Minutes of the March 28, 2012 meeting, and the meeting following the AGM on May 2, 2012 were approved, as circulated.

2. Transit

- On behalf of the Gabriola Public Transit Committee, of which he and John Hodgkins are members, Jim reported that attempts to have the RDN fund a trial operation under their Public Works Funding have not yet been successful; the RDN has indicated that their funding could cover the cost of a bus and bus shelters, but not other startup costs. GPTC is attempting to get clarification from the RDN as to what they would require to approve purchase of a bus. The group is also planning to expand the membership on GPTC to include other interested residents, and then to convene a public meeting. It is felt a trial-operation of a bus or shuttle service is essential before a regular transit operation will be approved, and funded by taxpayers.
- Donation request from the Gabriola Auxiliary for \$5,000 was reviewed and was not approved. It was noted the donations by Gabriolans from their BC Government's Climate Action Dividends are intended to support a public transit operation and those funds may be needed soon in support of that objective.
- Our RDN Regional Director has obtained approval for a taxi saver program, subject to voters' assent. It is understood the Gabriola Recreation Society may be asked to administer the program.

3. Village Core Review

- Steve Earle has reported that the proposed off-road pedestrian/cycling trail through the Village has received solid support from adjoining business operators. Appointment of a Park Planner by the RDN to undertake this project is pending. Phase 2 of the Madrona Development includes provision for the off-road trail. Also, the Commons is planning to start work on their portion of the trail.

4. Roads

- Following the well-attended June 18 public meeting with MoTI officials, a letter sent by GTA, Chamber of Commerce and Ratepayers dated July 3, 2012 outlined the main items discussed and asked for appropriate action thereon. [A message received from MoTI after the meeting indicated that the line painting should be completed by the end of September, weather dependent. Cost proposals regarding the other issues will be considered this fall when the Project Engineer has time.]
- While on a recent trip along the Yellowhead Highway, John Hall noted the road, still in excellent condition, is being repaved. The contrast to Gabriola road conditions, and possible political implications, was noted.
- Rick Mitchell has written to GTA about safety issues at the Church and North Road intersection. It was agreed that GTA should provide assistance by (a) requesting the Fire Department to clear brush at the Church/North Rd. corner of their property; and (b) that MoTI be requested to consider other solutions, including a flashing light at the intersection.

5. Ferry

- John Hodgkins reports that the Province has appointed King & Co. as consultants to conduct a public engagement process over the coming months on potential service adjustments to achieve the target of \$30 million savings by the end of the current performance term, and also on developing a long-term vision for coastal ferry services. This process will be led by MoTI, not BC Ferries, and should begin this fall. It may be that groups such as GTA may wish to become involved with the public engagement process.

6. Other Transportation

- An electric vehicle will be demonstrated at the Commons' Fall Fair on September 16th. This Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) is only street legal on Gabriola in the 50 kph zone at the north end of the Island. [At that demonstration, Sheila Malcolmson explained that the IT had asked to have the 50 kph zone extend all the way from the golf course to the Rollo playing field, but MoTI approved a lesser area. She suggested it may be possible to lobby MoTI to extend the area if there is a market for LSV's.]

7. Other Business

- Erik Andersen submitted his resignation as Treasurer. Following discussion, it was "Resolved that the resignation of Erik Andersen as Treasurer be accepted with regret, and that André Lemieux be appointed Treasurer of GTA, effective immediately."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8: 30 p.m. The next meeting is planned for the latter half of October.

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