

Minutes of November 14, 2013 Gabriola Transportation Assn. Board Meeting

Present:

Jim Ramsay – President & Secretary
Randy Young – Vice-President (from 7:20 pm)
André Lemieux – Treasurer
John Hodgkins

Absent:

Erik Andersen

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Minutes

Minutes of the September 12, 2013 meeting were approved as circulated.

2. Transit

- Jim reported that GERTIE ridership continues to increase, particularly for commuter runs. John Hodgkins' suggestion of making the afternoon services primarily drop-off runs operating only as far as passengers on board are travelling is being well received. Due to a lack of sufficient volunteer drivers, the planned expansion of mid-day service to every day between Tuesday and Saturday has had to be postponed and ridership on those runs is still low.
- RDN's approval for the second Sprinter vehicle is being progressed, which means that the School Bus becomes primarily used for backup and large group purposes.

3. Roads

- The Coast Road project has now been seal coated at the expense of a local resident. MoTI officials have indicated the costs for road grading and addition of culverts were absorbed by the ministry. It appears the cost for seal coating is approximately \$60,000 per kilometer. The approval for this action also sets a precedent in that the requisite 'Permit to Construct' was issued to an individual rather than an elected government. GaLTT would like to obtain such a permit for various projects on Gabriola.
- The upgrading of the s-curve on Taylor Bay Road before McConvey is nearing completion. It appears the road shoulders added below the hill will not be paved.
- A meeting between GTA and the Chamber of Commerce with MoTI will be arranged for early in the New Year.

4. Ferry

- John Hodgkins reviewed the upcoming Provincial consultation on service adjustments, which will include a public meeting on Gabriola December 10th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at the Haven. Details of the proposed adjustments will be announced on November 18.

- The proposed catamaran passenger ferry from Nanaimo harbour to Vancouver harbour will be the third time this has been tried, and a similar sized vessel is proposed. It remains to be seen if financing will be forthcoming.
- André Lemieux briefly reviewed his personal proposal that the Tsawwassen ferry terminal be turned into a tanker port for the Kinder Morgan oil pipeline; that a new terminal be built on Iona Island crossing to Valdes Island, connecting by bridges to Gabriola, Mudge and Vancouver Island; and that the Departure Bay, Duke Point and Gabriola ferry terminals be sold. It was noted that this proposal is not endorsed by GTA.

5. Other Transportation
Nil

6. Other Business

- Jim reported that Sustainable Gabriola and the Chamber of Commerce are continuing to work on the proposed framework for the Sustainable Village Core Planning Project. A public meeting is expected early in the New Year.
- The present and future role of GTA was discussed. While various GTA members are involved with specific transportation organizations, GTA itself does not participate actively on most transportation issues, other than roads. It was proposed that representation from the Cyclepaths group should be added to existing GTA members. This matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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