

Gabriola Fire Protection District
General Meeting

A general meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held March the 2nd 2022 with seven trustees in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m by Chairman Paul Giffin.

Diana Moher gave the opening greeting,

“The GFPID acknowledges that we are gathering within the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw Nation”.

The Chairman asked for any errors or omissions from the February the 9th 2022 meeting. Moved by Diana Moher, that the minutes be accepted as presented, seconded by John Moeller, carried.

Correspondence: N/A

Treasurers report: N/A

Committee reports: N/A

Trustee Review.

The chair requested that the minutes of the trustee review be moved.

Fred Apstein moved that the minutes of the trustee review be accepted, seconded by Chris Windess, carried.

Fire Chief report: (As per written report)

After the chief gave his report, he introduced Hayley Bennett who gave an update on the Firesmart program’s progress. The following points were brought forward:

- Project is going really well with a lot of interest from the residents on the Island.
- Going to private homes to give a Firesmart evaluation to homeowners.
- Firesmaring focus is on education and fuel management.
- Fuel management is the big concern as there is no place to dispose of the debris.
- There will be an Open House in April with some really knowledgeable people giving presentations on fuel management.

- I will be attending a conference in early May with the topic focusing on Grant Funding.

The Firesmart program is based on research and I want to make sure our island is part of it.

Q. What about chipping?

A. Unfortunately, unless managed properly, mulch can be dangerous.

I encourage everyone to book an appointment.

The Chair thanked Hayley for her presentation.

The Fire Chief noted that there will be a Jay Dearman Memorial run on the Father's Day weekend.

Sean Lewis noted that, with Board approval, he had met with the Fire Chief and reviewed the current OFC audit. Sean stated "I commend the chief and the TO for their work on the audit."

Training Officer Report: (As per written report.)

Association report:

- Just had the GVFD AGM, Alex Dewar – President, Jenn Knight – Secretary, and Carol Waldo – treasurer.
- Social events are
- off the calendar until next month, fingers crossed.
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Website:

Chris Windess requested permission to liaise with Jenn Knight on his putting up information on the GVFD website trustee page before putting money into a new webpage. Still trying to find a way in WIX, to move from one page, from one website, to another.

Motion that Chris Windess liaise with Jenn Knight on necessary hours for an interim webpage, seconded, carried.

Trustee review

The Chair noted that the Trustee Review had been dealt with at the last meeting and asked for a motion to accept the terms of reference. Fred moved, seconded by Penelope Bahr, carried.

The Chair stated that there were two matters that needed to be addressed.

- One Trustee needed to be on the Committee.
- On how to advertise for the rest of the Committee.
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After discussion it was decided that an advertisement would be placed in the Sounder, asking for volunteers.

The Chair asked for a Trustee to volunteer to be on the committee, Sean Lewis put his name forward.

Moved by Penelope Bahr, that Sean Lewis be on the Committee, seconded by Fred Apstein, carried.

New policy:

A discussion took place with regard to what the next policy would be needed, with the following suggestions coming forward;

- Policy describing the Trustees role and Operations, so that it was clearly defined. (Fred Apstein will see what are the department's have)
- Policy on orientation package for new Board members.
- Policy regarding Trustees, not meeting as a whole, to discuss matters before a meeting.
- Policy on trustees issuing personal statements to the public after a decision has been made as a Board.

AGM

After discussion the following motion was forthcoming;

Fred Apstein moved that the AGM be held on Wednesday, May the 11th at 7:30 p.m, with voting taking place from 3:00 p.m - 7:15 p.m.

Additional item on the agenda

A report given Kitt Stringer, At the special meeting in November-moved by Fred Apstein, seconded by Chris Windess, carried.

Sean Lewis stated that he wanted this on the agenda as Kitt had gone to ' a lot of work' , putting his presentation together and that he had not been able to finish it at the meeting, so just wanted to see if there was anything he wanted to say.

Kitt replied " No worries, it's over."

Chris Windess asked, " Didn't we give extra time?"

Fred Apstein replied , " No , I voted against it as we had had time constraints on everyone else and he had gone over. Also, I was appalled at what he was saying and thought it was inappropriate to talk to trustees the way he did."

Sean Lewis stated but while he didn't agree with what Kitt had said, he realized that he did go to a lot of work but with the time constraints, it had to stop but he just wanted to bring it up.

The Fire Chief said he believed that this was drumming up old business and asked that the trustees just to move forward.

Diana Moher agreed with the chief and said that as she never got to hear the end of what Kitt had had to say, she couldn't make a comment and also wanted to move on.

Don Elkington Letter:

The Chair stated that a letter of thanks had been written and sent to the Sounder and asked Derek (from the Sounder) why it hadn't been published. Derek replied that the recipient was away and that he had spoken to his wife and they agreed it should go in, when he was back.

Diana Moher thanked the FF's and public for attending the meeting.

Fred Apstein moved to adjourn, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried

. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m