

Rakino Ratepayers Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Thursday 20-Apr-2017 at 18:00

37-39 Ireland Street, Freemans Bay, Auckland 1011 (Alaska premises)

Present:

Steve McCrone (SMcC)
Susan Plummer (SP)
Barry Bridgwater (BB)
Rob Everall (RE)
Stephen Thomas (ST)

Apologies:

Adrian Townsend (AT)
John Denton (JD)
Peter Watson (PW) - resigned

Mark Lockhart (guest)

Chris Clews (guest)

Mark Lockhart (guest) attended to discuss environmental matters.

Due to his other pressing commitments, the agenda was taken slightly out of order to accommodate Mark being able to participate, as he missed out on the last opportunity when he attended (see March minutes). The sequence below reflects the actual order of discussion, but is numbered to reflect the Agenda for ease of future reference.

5. Environmental / Ecological Matters

ML detailed his perspective of the key environmental issues and considerations on Rakino:

Drainage – routine weed spraying of drains and culverts or not, as weed growth slows down water flow and enables the system to handle deluge volumes better with a slower drain off.

Also, recent slips were noted due to a sedimentary condition with a clay under-soil called 'slippery back' and an engineering assessment may be merited in key areas – this will be investigated further.

Nursery – settling well and a future source of island native plants.

Weed eradication – ML has been drafting a 5-year plan for Rhamnus management/eradication with Deryn Dromgoole. A key recommendation proposed is that female (berry-producing) plants be specifically targeted ahead of male plants to inhibit parthenogetic (asexual) reproduction at source.

This runs contrary to Auckland Council guidelines.

ML asked for and received unanimous RRA endorsement from this meeting that targeting female plants was logical and should be pursued through the dialogue with Council representatives.

Planting Bees – ongoing.

Despite the reduction of central funding for plantings, ML advised that some plants would be available later this year.

Wasps – the researcher had visited and it is hoped we get a report or recommendations on a management or eradication strategy.

Funding – should fall under the overall centralised funding umbrella which RRA has already undertaken to formalise with the creation of a sub-committee or dedicated champion.

Rodent Station Baiting – ongoing through Auckland Council Bio-Security.

Overall Environmental Strategy – the creation of such a strategy through consultants was discussed, and had been previously proposed by Kevin Wragge as a 'handbook' for those wishing to develop their land in a heterogeneous and unifying profile of flora and fauna native to the island environment.

This has not yet proceeded.

ML has a planting list which can be made available upon request. It is recognized that Council will likely assert pressure on individual land owners of large land blocks to keep them clear of pest plants and weeds such as moth plant and Rhamnus, and so any concerted effort to be proactive would benefit everyone.

ML noted that John McKenzie has returned to the island after some absence overseas; he has very extensive knowledge of the local flora and has previously been very active in native planting on large tracts

Rakino Ratepayers Association

of land, so should prove to be valuable source of knowledge and support for environmental matters.

ML proposed to submit a written summary of his perspective on environmental matters to the Committee.

SMcC thanked ML for his efforts and asked if he could provide a periodic update to the Committee on environmental matters and concerns; a standing invitation is in place to join future Committee meetings as desired or required when specific RRA involvement or support is sought.

1. Welcome / Apologies / confirm Quorum

Apologies were recorded from AT, JD, PW and CC as above.

Quorum was confirmed.

2. Past Minutes

Minutes from the previous Committee Meeting (**16-Mar-2016**) were circulated prior to this meeting and were proposed by the Chair for acceptance.

They were proposed for acceptance by SMcC and accepted unanimously for adoption and publication to the website.

3. Finances and Correspondence

a) Committee Administration

It was noted that PW had tendered his resignation through RE from both the RRA Committee and Community Hall Sub Committee but was unable to attend this meeting personally due to family commitments. (See also below).

His resignation was accepted and PW was thanked *in absentia* by SMcC for his contribution to advancing the review of options for the Community Hall.

On behalf of JD and at his request, RE circulated a letter from Syd Beguely of Allendale Consulting Ltd dated 11-Oct-2016 regarding accounting review recommendations to 'improve the effectiveness and transparency of the Association's processes'.

These recommendations are being implemented but are not yet complete.

JD reminded BB that, as Treasurer, he needed to prepare the cash book for the financial year 2016-7 for use in year-end accounts post-June 2017. **Action: BB**

RE also addressed an item regarding a typo on Page 3 in the minutes to the Committee Meeting of 17-Feb-2016. The value of \$100 for the Akl Transport licence fee should have read \$1000. RE proposed an amending resolution that the figure of \$100 be amended to \$1000 and this was unanimously accepted.

Action: RE to amend the record and correct the version posted to the RRA website

b) Review of Easter Events

SMcC summarized a varied and very successful Easter Saturday programme of events:

► **Children's Fishing Competition**, with prizes kindly donated by Burnsco via Ashley Denton. Special thanks to Lez, Tom, Sheryl and SP for making it such a success.

► **Easter Egg Hunt** immediately after the Fishing, kindly organized by John and the Denton family.

► **Market Day** – another great success thanks to the many contributors organized by Stacey Thomas and friends, and augmented this time with the coffee caravan (see below). RE reported that an additional nine sets of Bokashi bins had been sold (with four pending delivery and not yet paid for).

► **Home Bay Movie Night** organized by Chris Clews and Stephen Wong and their able band of fund raisers, which was attended by about 80 people.

Rakino Ratepayers Association

► **Holly and the Bluenotes** performed three blues sets in the Community Hall from 8pm to midnight, again very well attended and supported.

The next major opportunity for community events will be the Labour Day weekend, when it is anticipated that Market Day will again be staged. The success of the Band suggests this could also be repeated.

It is also the point to recognize and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the RRA, and a champion (or sub- committee) will be appointed to plan this accordingly.

c) **Financial Report**

BB was not in a position to present a financial report, but was asked to do so for the next meeting and thereafter by SMcC.

RE advised that the value of RRA funds held in trust via John Vague with BNZ (account number 80707091-00001, Term Investment) was valued at **\$23,246.54** on 17-Mar-2017. The funds are due to be reinvested but Mr Vague had signalled dissatisfaction with the performance of the bank and was considering placing the investment elsewhere. He had also reiterated to RE that the trustees hoped to have suitable community investment projects for which some of the funds might be utilised in future.

d) **Expenditure Approvals**

RE proposed that:

► John Denton be reimbursed **\$121.88** for the cost of Easter eggs purchased for the Easter egg hunt (see above). **Agreed unanimously.**

► Josh McCann be reimbursed **\$500** which is the agreed contribution to be made by RRA to the Band's traveling costs (see above). **Agreed unanimously.**

The Band received additional individual donations towards their performance, as well as collecting a gold coin donation on the door. No koha was requested by RRA although the band was asked to register the event on the Council website.

e) **2016-7 Membership Subs**

RE reported that two subs had been paid by Geoff Whitham (renewal) and Steve & Pip Livesay (new RRA members)

f) **Correspondence IN / OUT – reported by RE**

The 'Lonely Island' guide had attracted a lot of very positive feedback, both verbal and written. It is anticipated that it should be revisited in alternate years for updating and ongoing improvement.

AT wrote on 27-Mar-2017 to report on a discussion and formalised a recommendation which he requested be tabled in his absence:

'To create sub-committees for a) recurring aspects of the RRA that take time and b) one off projects.

These include:

- *Save the Community Hall. Already in progress.*
- *Entertainment. Already in progress.*
- *Environment.*
- *Funding Applications.*
- *Infrastructure (roads/rubbish, etc.)'*

Rakino Ratepayers Association

This was unanimously agreed as a principle, although it was also accepted that in certain cases an individual champion may be more appropriate, rather than a full sub-committee, in the interests of productivity.

Bev Postmaa confirmed that an events diary would be made available in the Hall as well as another book to record anyone borrowing the fire pump or related equipment.

She also noted that the combination to the poisons cupboard lock is written on the wooden shelf struts immediately above it, high enough to be out of sight of children.

Kevin Wragge had referred a web site link for native tree planting, which fits with ML's efforts. See <https://www.treesthatcount.co.nz/about> (also on Facebook).

4. Community Hall Sub Committee

The sub-committee was confirmed as Stephen Thomas, Sue Plummer and Chris Clews.

Doug Armstrong has confirmed that he is not able to be involved but will lend whatever support he can and SP will act as his liaison.

SMcC confirmed that he is not able to be involved in the sub-committee due to existing commitments.

Hank Postmaaa had confirmed (via RE) that he would not be able to participate in the sub-committee but was able to offer technical input and guidance (e.g. building code) upon request.

It was agreed that no additional sub-committee members be sought at this stage, as there was no limit on how many people it could engage with to seek their input.

PW has submitted a set of documentation to RE which will be circulated soonest as a hand-over; PW has signalled his availability to meet and discuss his findings with the sub-committee to ensure an effective transfer of understanding.

RE has previously circulated an old architectural survey of the building dating from 2004.

It was agreed that the issue over land title was something which could be pursued in parallel with all other activities, as this was patently a 'stopper' and outside our immediate ability to act on or resolve as it's an internal matter for the Council and is being handled as one of a suite of comparable land title situations with other regional properties.

JD, (through RE) submitted some information secured in strictest confidence for the attention of the Community Hall sub-committee only and this was circulated for consideration.

It is specifically not identified in this record in order to respect the confidentiality requested.

SMcC confirmed that the sub-committee needs to elect a Chair.

The target date for reporting back is the end of June 2017 (or as advised by the sub-committee).

5. Already covered above.

6. Waste Management Matters

It was noted that Hazel Durkin of Auckland Council had been invited to attend this meeting, but had asked to postpone in favour of one of her colleagues coming along to a future meeting t.b.c., whom she considers more experienced in organic waste techniques.

Future attendance will be co-ordinated through RE and Hazel, and there is a standing invitation to attend the Committee meeting for Council representatives for specific issues and initiatives in the spirit of maintaining effective liaison.

Hazel had visited the island on Easter Saturday, meeting with SMcC and RE and getting an

Rakino Ratepayers Association

improved understanding of the community, as well as meeting with Council contract staff.

It was confirmed that any member of RRA or the Rakino community was welcome to attend the venue immediately prior to a Committee meeting. Issues or matters of concern meriting urgent consideration by the RRA Committee could be tabled and explained to facilitate discussion within the Committee. Advance notification to the Secretary would be requested, in order to ensure availability of Committee members before commencement of the meeting itself.

7. Review of Action Summary and Work in Progress

See following – individual actions updated and new ones added.

8. New Business

JD (via RE) tabled concerns about the state of the island's roads after recent heavy rain, which have also been escalated by Kevin Wragge several times in recent months.

A programme of work by Akl Transport to grade and stabilise roads and to restore drainage ditches would appear to be necessary to ensure adequate management of wastewater and restoration of a reasonable driving surface, especially in places like the dip in Woody Bay Road. Further action may also need to be supported with regards to vehicles parked at the roadside in Ocean View Parade and approaches to Sandy Bay.

It was proposed that the island be walked and photographed to document and then report to Akl Transport to seek resolution.

Maurice Brown is to be approached to determine what the escalation path is with the Council, as he is the appointed contractor.

The upper West Bay DoC sign has been accidentally damaged in collision with a turning vehicle and will be replaced.

Action: RE to liaise with Akl Council accordingly

New triangular Fire warning signs are now in storage on the island and Hank may need assistance to get these mounted. He will advise RE if/when assistance is required.

RE confirmed that islander Hugo Gibbs had kindly donated some roadside signage plus a large square sign (all dry wipe type signs) to be mounted at the Hall for community communication and publicity purposes.

9. Next Meeting Dates

Thursday 18-May-2017 – Alaska premises, Ireland Street, Freemans Bay.

Thursday 15-Jun-2017– Alaska premises, Ireland Street, Freemans Bay.

The meeting closed at 20:00.

NB: Future absences:

(AT - notified absence overseas 22 June to 22 July inc.)

(SP - absent overseas from 05 June to 07 July inc.)

(RE - likely to be absent during June)

(JD - absent: 21 May - 13 July, 26 Sept - 2 Oct; 8 Oct - 31 Oct)

Meetings default to the third Thursday each month, unless by prior change, starting promptly at 6:00 pm – please diarise.

Rakino Ratepayers Association

Action Summary and Work in progress

Escalation of roading and drainage issues to Akl Transport	Committee
Expand on the outline 'way we do things round here' code for Rakino – AT agreed to ask wife, Tania, to give some thought to expanding this document.	AT
Complete take up of the Treasurer role and commence regular reporting. BB to verify on line bank account access and write up cashbook for 2016-7 financial year. Also implementation of Accounts Review recommendations.	BB
Development of strategic plan (inc. items raised in the AGM) and key strategic threads (e.g. Environmental; weed eradication; etc.) and major focal areas from Survey.	Committee
Committee to progress formation of Funding/Grant Sub-Committee to underpin RRA Strategy and improve leverage from available funding sources. Assemble calendar of annual community funding rounds and points of contact/reference (summary in March 2017 minutes)	Committee BB
Review of Rakino Budget data sourced by PW from AKL Council – this also fits with the formation of a Funding/Grant Sub-Committee noted above	Committee
Determine initiatives to increase membership – to be brainstormed (50/100, etc.)	Committee
Investigate grant options for seating at viewpoints (carried forward) plus replacement of Sandy Bay seating (raised at AGM) – carried forward for inclusion under Funding/Grant Sub-Committee focus	Committee
STANDING ITEM: generate copy for potential inclusion in the Rakino News.	Committee
Consider future island social events 2017	Committee
Consider 50 th Anniversary celebration of RRA – sub-committee to be formed, to consider an event on Labour Day weekend 2017. CARRIED FORWARD	Committee > Sub-Committee
Elect Chairperson. Review data and progress discussions regarding Community Hall options within TOR, first stage. First report due end-June 2017.	Community Hall Sub-Committee
Fire Training – Winter 2017 - Hank and Bev to liaise with Rory and advise of any support they need from RRA. SP to liaise on behalf of the Committee	HP & BP SP
Action the recommendations of the Financial Reviewer for 2015-6 accounts. Effective from January 2017 – carried forward. New Financial Reviewer to be identified if requirement is confirmed.	JD / BB JD > Committee
Progress Rhamnus strategy with DoC	Mark Lockhart
Submit written perspective on Environmental priorities for Rakino. To join future Committee meetings as necessary.	ML
STANDING ITEM: Liaise with Auckland Harbour Master regarding moorings.	RE
Sell remaining Bokashi Bin and Zing stock - ongoing. Complete terminal grant reporting to Akl Council.	RE
Liaise with AKL Transport lawyers and Fee Langstone to terminate all lease	RE

Rakino Ratepayers Association

activities (abandoned) Resolve financial position over legal account (RE) Akl Transport ground to be re-cleared of vegetation (slasher + working bees) to render it usable for community activities next summer.	ST / ALL
Liaison with Hazel Durkin (Akl Council) regarding proposed attendee at RRA Committee meeting.	RE
Amend the Minutes of Feb 2016 to reflect correction identified in Accounts Review and post to RRA website.	RE
Secure replacement DoC sign for West Bay from the Council.	RE
Mount small road signs on stakes. Install large white sign on Sandy Bay Wharf buildings.	RE / SMcC
Resolve Rakino community participation in Gulf Islands Trust Forum CARRIED FORWARD	SMcC
Liaise with Colin Maclaren regarding support for Fun Run certificates for 2018 (generic format).	SMcC
Liaise with Belaire Ferries regarding unaccompanied luggage policy. Sue to liaise with Steve	SMcC / SP
Newsletter content (ongoing) – next issue: June 2017 To include: ????	SMcC + Committee
Fire Fighter List – Hank Postmaa to set up text alert list from list of trained firefighter islanders. Carried forward, SP to check with HP on latest status.	SP & HP
Complete post-event review of Dragon Boat Event Plan for any improvements and post to Drop Box (send via RE).	SP / RE

Committee members are reminded to review and print your own copies of all materials circulated prior to the meeting, forwarding amendments / corrections where necessary in advance to the Secretary, in order to optimize the discussion time available in meetings.