

Minutes of September 12, 2013 Gabriola Transportation Assn. Board Meeting

Present:

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

Absent:
Erik Andersen
John Hodgkins

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

1. Minutes

Minutes of the March 26, 2013 meeting, and the meeting following the AGM on May 28, 2013, were approved as circulated.

2. Transit

- Jim reported that the first three months' of GERTIE operation have gone well, with over 2,000 passengers carried. New Fall Schedule goes into effect September 28 to reflect results of extensive consultation with the community. In addition to round-island express runs in the early morning and late afternoon, mid-day service will now be available every day between Tuesday and Saturday.
- Approval for another Sprinter-type vehicle and an ongoing need for more volunteer drivers are major challenges for the organization.

3. Roads

- The Coast Road project has received a MoTI permit and the road graded and new culverts installed in preparation for seal coating. André would like to know the cost of paving all gravel roads on Gabriola, or how much for specific roads? It may be possible to extrapolate the costs of the Coast Road project to provide some of that information.
- Approved plan for upgrading of the s-curve on Taylor Bay Road before McConvey recognizes the Cyclepaths input on dangerous road sections. The proposal, which will reflect inner and outer concrete curbs on the uphill side and an outer curb only on the downhill portion, was recommended by the IT Transportation Advisory Commission, on which Jim and John are members.
- Streamkeepers, a subsidiary of GaLTT, wants to put signs at the side of roads identifying the location of creeks.
- Top sealing work is being done around the Island by a contractor. While it works well on flat surfaces, the portion on Barrett Hill has become washboard. This will be discussed at our next meeting with MoTI.

4. Ferry

- John Hodgkins proposed discussing (a) Provincial consultation on service adjustments; and (b) Identifying minimum levels of ferry service. Since John was unable to attend, these items will be postponed to the next meeting.

- It was noted that Capt. McKillop has been looking for used ferries for the Interior Ferry system which he manages.
- Given BC Ferries' organization problems, it was proposed that the Provincial Government should be asked to take over all ferry terminals, in the same way that airports are not run by individual airlines. In the case of the Gabriola and Departure Bay terminals, it is possible the Nanaimo Harbour Commission could be made responsible. If this change was made, it would then be much easier for a non-BCF ferry service to be authorized. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

5. Other Transportation

Nil

6. Other Business

- Jim reported that Sustainable Gabriola and the Chamber of Commerce are developing a proposed framework—in essence a process to design a process—for review of the Village Core. Jim is participating in this initiative on behalf of GTA. Identification of stakeholders will be the first step in this process, which will likely be of a long-term nature, as there are bound to be a number of major considerations like water and septic to consider.
- Location of a skateboard facility adjacent to Huxley Park is being explored. For insurance reasons, the facility needs to be under RDN jurisdiction, but part of the preferred site is on Commons land. There is some indication the Lions Club will fund the skateboard facility.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

* * * * *