

Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee
Summary Meeting Notes
October 10, 2020

Chair, Rand Koch, convened the virtual meeting of the Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee (NCAC) to order at 10:00 via a Zoom call.

Introduction of Participants

Attending via Zoom were: Cathy Benneth, Jean Cameron, Dave Benneth, Guy Sievert, Brenda Freshman, Susan Schomburg, Rand Koch, Marshall Young, Chris Silkowski, Larry Glickman, Kay Wyatt, Alexis Tate, Gail Swanson, Alex Sifford and Missy Moss.

Conflicts of Interest

Rand asked the officers to state any conflicts of interest they might have with the items on the agenda. None were reported.

Review of Minutes from February NCAC Meeting

Larry Glickman made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2020 NCAC meeting. Cathy Benneth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Notice of Tillamook County Conditional Use, Variances and Public Notices

Rand indicated that there were no County conditional use permits or variances to report but that the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners had received public interest favoring a permanent closure of vehicular traffic on beaches in South Tillamook County and is seeking public opinion on vehicular beach access and has opened a testimony period between October 5th and October 20th at 4:00 p.m. Information on submitting public testimony can be found on the County website at: <https://www.tillamookcountypioneer.net/county-seeks-public-opinion-on-vehicular-beach-access-in-south-tillamook-county/>.

NCAC Officer Update by Rand Koch

The one-year terms of the Vice Chairman and the Treasurer elected in August of 2019 expired at the end of August 2020 and due to the disruptions occasioned by the Corona Virus, Rand requested that the terms for the Vice Chair and the Treasurer be extended to June of 2022. A motion to accept this proposal was made by Cathy Benneth, seconded by Alex Sifford and a vote of the membership was taken which passed unanimously.

Bylaws Committee Update

At the last NCAC meeting, Guy Sievert proposed that everyone attending each meeting should state any conflicts of interest they might have. Larry Glickman, the Chairman's appointee to oversee the Bylaws Committee, reported that the Committee considered this proposal and determined that because officers are held accountable to a higher standard of disclosure, they alone would be asked to declare conflicts of interest at the beginning of each meeting.

Community Plan Update

Chris Silkowski, Chairman of the Community Plan Update Committee, reported that the first of a series of townhall meetings occurred on September 22 via Zoom featuring a presentation by Sarah Absher, and a panel, regarding land-use planning objectives. The meeting was recorded and is available on You Tube for those unable to attend. The next townhall meeting is scheduled for October 27 and the subject of the presentation will be emergency preparedness. An invitation will be sent out via email to all members.

Chris reported that a communications champion was needed who could help build a website and manage email distributions.

Chris also reported that funding has been approved for the NCAC to purchase and create its own Zoom account going forward rather than using Brenda's.

Beach Access Improvements Update

Rand reported that the \$75,000 of funding for the upgrade of the beach access at the west end of Carlton Street and the \$5000 of matching from the NCA was in place for a total of \$80,000. Rand read a memo to the group describing the efforts and conclusions reached to date. A copy of the memo is attached.

Carlton Street Erosion Control Coordination with Beach Access Grant

Rand reported on the plan to correct the grade on Carlton Street from Breakers to Hawk Creek with gravel and paving was determined to correct the flow of surface water. The gravel street reparations are within the grant costs but paving would be an additional cost. Rand is researching what it might cost to have a corner of the property paved and is also trying to find funding. The area is approximately 24 feet by 150 feet.

Tsunami Signs

Rand reported that 18 sets of tsunami access signs were installed on Wednesday of this week by Alex Sifford, Mike Wynand and himself. There are extra signs that can be installed in additional locations. Jean Cameron reported on other signage plans and installations in Neskowin Crest and the Hills of Neskowin. She applauded the efforts of Bill Bush who was critical in sourcing the signs and related hardware.

Member Comments

Rand asked if there any other items to be discussed and there were none.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NCAC will be at 10 AM on December 12.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 am.

Memorandum of Beach Access Improvement Update 10/10/2020

This update is regarding the Beach Access at the west end of Carlton Street which is being funded by a \$75,000 grant from the Tillamook County TLT Fund secured last spring. The Neskowin Community Association provided a \$5,000 match of funding in addition to the grant. Total budget addresses the location at Carlton St., maintenance of the McMinnville and Mt. Angel Beach Accesses and re-grading of Carlton from Breakers east to the downslope to Hawk Creek to accommodate runoff from Breakers Blvd. or potential waves running up Carlton.

At a meeting October 6th on site at Carlton Street at the west end, where a ramp for access to the beach was proposed, a group of State, County Public works, the Fire Chief, the contractor for building the project and local neighbors gathered, and I walked through the proposal for the engineered emergency Access ramp. The features of the ramp were explained, and the placements of the features were marked in white on the road. After a number of questions were addressed, Jay Sennewald from the State OPRD brought up a letter written by the neighbor who owns the house next to the proposed ramp to the south who objected to the ramps proximity to his building and its potential threat to bring wave water closer to his building.

The ramp was engineered to disperse and de-accelerate waves and turn them back down the ramp. Because storms can at times come over the top of the riprap, the neighbor was concerned the water would wash out or get his crawl space wet. That concern was attached to the ramp bringing in water below the current grade farther on Carlton St. even though the end grade was a bit higher than the current grade at the top of the stairs. Nevertheless the State felt that the concern was legitimate. The engineer and I had walked the site and proposed a curbing, possible highway lane dividers could be a low cost solution, but we had not included that in the design as received by the state as this issue had not been raised when we submitted our application. The State said that the neighbor had also required a hydraulic engineer's stamp on the plan to increase his confidence in the design, which could be pursued along with the curb approach regarding water.

Chris Laity from the County suggested he may be able to get a Hydraulic Engineer who is working on the egress road for Neskowin to take a look and inform us regarding a stamp approving the design. At that time the Fire Chief said that if there was a stairway provided the improvement would be functional for his crew to reach the beach and get emergency victims off the beach.

Given the limited budget for the project, the concern for going to hearings and the threat of lawyers being involved by one of the neighbors, the group came to a consensus that the stairs would be a safer way to get to the beach and the Fire Chief accepted the improvement for his emergency services to be provided.

The stairway design is in the works and the state may accept the changes to our application with no additional \$400 fee. There will be a new 60-day approval schedule to begin when the new design for stairs is available to submit. The one neighbor on site Oct. 6 indicated no objection to the stairs as a solution.