



**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS
MINUTES OF SUSTAINABLE LAND USE
SELECT COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 @ 7:00pm
SCHOOL HOUSE, 1589 MILLSTREAM ROAD

PRESENT

Ingo Lambrecht
Dave Mackas
Bob McMinn
Allan Roger
Ellie Rayner

COUNCIL LIAISON:

Councillor Karen Burns

PUBLIC

1 member

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved and Seconded that the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved and Seconded that the minutes of the Committee meeting of February 20, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATE

Councillor Burns outlined council's recent major initiatives and decisions.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) **Local Area Plan for the South Highlands**

Background discussion:

SLUSC members agree that a Local Area Plan (LAP) for the South Highlands would provide useful advance guidance to both residents and developers about what types and scales of future development are appropriate (and at what locations) in the South Highlands. SLUSC is willing to provide input, but present members do not feel qualified to lead this process

Committee Action (MOVED and CARRIED):

SLUSC recommends that Council/Staff:

- a) *Provide a brief update to our Committee on any current activity toward LAP development*
- b) *Consider funding accelerated development of an LAP as a Special Project in the 2018 budget cycle*

b) **Weather Stations**

Allan Roger reported that installation of weather stations at both East and West Fire Halls has been completed

c) **Mines Act Permit Freedom of Information recommendation to Council**

Remains with Council for action

d) **Report from Chairman****Re: Discussion With Fire Chief – Wildfire Risk & Possible SLUSC Involvement**

A spring 2016 Fire Smart public information session hosted by HVFD featured presentations by the Fire Chief and wildfire interface expert Margaret Symons plus audience Q&A and opportunity for follow-up onsite inspections. Could be repeated in future (2019? 2020?). Fire Chief would welcome SLUSC assistance with future sessions.

e) **Work Activity Log**

A sample monthly update prepared by Chair was examined and approved.

5. THREATS TO HIGHLANDS SUSTAINABILITY

No new items this month

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Council Referral from March 5, 2018

RE: Traffic Safety/Regulation – Slow Community

Background discussion: SLUSC members agree that

- There has been a noticeable long-term trend toward increasing vehicle traffic volume and excessive vehicle speed on Highlands's roads.
- Combined with instances of aggressive driving, these cause safety hazards for all road users (pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians perhaps even more than for motorized vehicle occupants) and degrade quality-of-life for residents living along the roads.
- Many Highlands roads will (and should) continue to be used by pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and pet walkers.
- Traffic is especially problematic on the roads that connect across Highlands borders (Millstream Lake-Ross Durrance, Munns, lower Millstream, and Finlayson Arm Roads) and during morning and evening commute times. Current speed limits on these roads range from 25-50 km/hr (and were often exceeded by 10-15 km/hr or more).
- Bob McMinn and Cathy Reader reported improvement along the Millstream Lake/Ross Durrance corridor following recently intensified RCMP enforcement of existing speed limits.

However, based on both personal experience and input from neighbours, SLUSC members felt that a District-wide maximum speed of 30km/hr (lower on some roads) could have unintended negative consequences such as:

- Sense by some drivers that the reduced speed limits are "unreasonable", leading to poor or greatly uneven compliance.
- Dangerous passing of accumulated lines of slower-moving vehicles.
- Increases in emergency response times.

Committee Action

(MOVED and CARRIED):

SLUSC recommends that:

- i) Council/Staff should consult Fire Chief for an analysis of Fire Department response time implications (both to fire and as medical first responder)
- ii) Current speed limits may be adequate if strictly enforced, especially during peak traffic time periods. Deterrent effect (compliance with speed limits due to fear-of-ticketing) is likely maximized if RCMP enforcement campaigns are unannounced and a bit unpredictable in timing.

b) **DETERMINE APRIL MEETING DATE**

Agreed that April meeting will be postponed to allow SLUSC members to attend the 18 April Ecoasis event at the Community Hall, and that the next regular SLUSC meeting will be Tuesday 15 May at the Schoolhouse.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded that the meeting adjourn at 8:35 pm.

CARRIED

David Mackas

Recording Secretary

Chair

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 PM Tuesday 15 May 2018 at the Schoolhouse