

Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 127th meeting, held at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 7 August 2007

Members present

Peter Reimann (chair)
Frances Lee (outgoing secretary)
Malcolm McDonald (incoming secretary)

Dorothy Douglass
Barry Durrant

Phil Parnell
Carolyn Theiler

In attendance

David Sole (Acting Manager Natural and Botanic Areas, WCC)
Kate McKenzie (Community Liaison, WCC)

Kerry Lee (volunteer)
Jock Fleming (visitor)

Apologies

Olaf John
Deidre Burke
Steven Peters (Senior Park Ranger, WCC)
Nick Conland (Pollution Officer, GWRC)
Harry Barton (Adopt-A-Spot Coordinator)

Andy Foster (Wellington City Councillor)
John Morrison (Wellington City Councillor)
Jack Ruben (Wellington City Councillor)
Celia Wade-Brown (Wellington City Councillor)

Minutes

The minutes of the 126th meeting, held on 26 June 2007, were confirmed.

Change of Secretary

Peter Reimann advised the meeting that Frances Lee sought to relinquish the position of secretary, having given 16 years of absolute dedication to the role, following her leading part in establishing the group. Malcolm McDonald had agreed to be considered for appointment to succeed Frances as secretary. Members had been informally polled, and had indicated they supported the new appointment.

The meeting accepted Frances' resignation, with regret. Peter, and Dorothy Douglas, in particular, spoke of the outstanding work done by Frances for the group and the park. A vote of thanks to Frances was carried with acclamation.

The appointment of Malcolm was approved. His contact details are: phone (04) 479 5350, email msmcdonald@paradise.net.nz, 35A Trelissick Crescent, Wellington 6035.

WCC Items

David Sole spoke to the following matters in progress:

Weed control

Justin McCarthy (Pest Plant Officer, WCC) was today meeting with Wayne Cowan (Greater Wellington Regional Council). The expected outcome is that Justin will be able to meet with the group to agree the work to be done in the park by WCC, charged against GWRC funding of \$8,000 for 2007/08.

Sewer line installation

David was aware that representatives of the group had met with Sisira Jayanatha, of consulting engineers Duffill Watts and Tse Ltd, to discuss the proposed installation of a new sewer pipeline from near the Waikowhai Street entrance to the "two elephant" bridge over the Korimako Stream. David asked whether there were any significant issues.

Peter Reimann said he and Malcolm McDonald had met Sisira on site, and had walked the intended pipeline route. Peter had subsequently written to Sisira to set out the group's understanding of aspects of the proposed installation, and to nominate conditions. Malcolm said the group's response covered matters unlikely to be contentious, such as revegetation, avoidance of silting, and continuity of public use of the Northern Walkway. Peter said that recent plantings by an adopt-a-spot volunteer have been relocated, to avoid trampling during pipeline installation at the bridge.

GWRC Items

Kate Mackenzie mentioned: Conservation Week activities; the newly-established GWRC Environmental Awards (the group might nominate in one of four categories); and that she had yet to contact Wayne Cowan, GWRC, in relation to the possible use of Take Care funding for weed control.

Peter Reimann alerted Kate to the Tararua Tramping Club desiring 100 low-growing plants to put in at their new streamside "spot" next to revegetation site #1, downstream of bridge #1. Peter advised that he had planted their surplus plants (about 20) at revegetation site #1.

Kate has not yet heard from Wadestown Primary School, concerning a proposed planting session at one of the railway revegetation sites.

Project Kaiwharawhara Meeting

Peter Reimann advised that the next Project Kaiwharawhara meeting is to be held in the Otari Bush Visitors Centre at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday 22 August.

[The agenda for the meeting is: *Project Kaiwharawhara review process - Amber Bill; Albemarle Stream Group Introduction - Howard Markland; Sanctuary to Sea walkway - Dave Halliday; Revegetation and Weed Control Plan in conjunction with Ontrack*. Refreshments are to be provided. Those attending, please RSVP to Kate Mackenzie by Tuesday 14th August.]

Kate Mackenzie said that Amber Bill will not have completed the draft Project Kaiwharawhara review before the meeting on 22 August, but will cover as much as she can.

Map Boards, Interpretative Board

Peter Reimann and Frances Lee reported that the composition and text of the 7 map boards to be installed [at the 6 entrances to the park – Hanover Street, Waikowhai Street, Trelissick Crescent x 2, Ngaio Gorge Road x 2 – and within the park by the bridge over Kaiwharawhara Stream below Hanover Street], together with the composition and text of the interpretative board by the historic magazine site, have been settled with Dave Halliday of WCC.

Production of the boards is now in Dave's hands. Dave has undertaken that the exact placement of the boards will be canvassed with the group before installation. In reply to a question, Kate Mackenzie said she thought that that the track usage counter remained inoperable.

Frances advised that private landowners have agreed to showing their relevant private land areas on the mapboards where tracks encroach (on Northern Walkway on zigzag section below Trelissick Crescent and on route below upper section of Ngaio Gorge road in gully area). The latter have agreed to WCC installing a sign requesting users to keep to the track on private land.

Brochure

Barry Durrant reported the finishing work for the brochure funded from the WCC grant is in the hands of the graphic designer, and he expects to receive a proof soon, for final review. Barry is to be overseas for a month from 22 August, and aims to have the job in the hands of the printer before he leaves.

Peter Reimann will carry out any necessary follow-up during Barry's absence.

Costs continue to be expected to be within estimates received, of \$500 + GST for design and \$1,300 + GST for printing.

It was confirmed that the contact for enquiries from prospective volunteers should appear in the brochure as Malcolm McDonald, phone (04) 479 5350.

Adopt-A-Spot

Peter advised that he had moved the 7 plants by the stream to the uphill side of Nicki Sayer's "spot" downstream of bridge #4, as agreed with her (via Harry Barton), to keep the view of the stream clear. Frances Lee advised she had moved some flaxes downstream of bridge #2 to prevent obstructing an access route to the stream.

All adopt-a-spottees are thought to have completed their plantings of trees allocated. The amount of work undertaken impresses and surprises park users, and attracts much favourable comment.

The sewer pipe leak above Dan McLean's "spot" just upstream of the bridge below Hanover Street has been fixed, but this needs watching in case of other leaks.

Frances advised that St Luke's church in Wadestown is interested in adopting a "spot".

Ngaio Gorge Road Work

The Contractor is continuing with the earthquake reinforcing measures for the road. Frances Lee highlighted the need to watch for any debris descending the steep slope impeding access on the track below.

Railway Land/Otari to Trelissick Park Track Link

Several members reported on a meeting held on Friday 3 August at GWRC premises, involving Kate McKenzie (for GWRC), Dave Halliday (WCC), Phil Parnell and Peter Buxton (Otari Bush), Peter Reimann, Frances Lee and Malcolm McDonald (Trelissick Park Group).

The meeting on 3 August agreed that the upgrading work on the Johnsonville line expected to be undertaken during summer 2007/08, with the cessation of train services for several weeks, potentially enhanced opportunities for weed control on On Track adjacent land. It potentially also offered opportunities for work associated with bridging the line, in support of a Sanctuary to Sea walkway. It was agreed that the Trelissick Park Group lead an approach to On Track relating to weed control and revegetation, and that WCC/Otari take the lead role as to bridging and tracking.

Frances Lee said she had been unable to contact Charlotte Lamerton of On Track about a meeting on planting/revegetation, as Charlotte was on leave. Frances had been referred to Frazer Tweedle, and awaited a reply to a message left on his answerphone. [After the meeting, Frances received a call from Frazer, and was told that Charlotte is expected back at work on 13 August, and should phone Frances then or soon after. The On Track personnel likely to be involved at a meeting on weed control and planting are Charlotte (involved with walkways, covenants) and Martin Penny (involved with weed control). Fraser mentioned that David Gordon, of the depot at Kaiwharawhara, was the On Track contractor for line work and would know the timetabling for the work and whether any funding for beautification might be available.]

Submissions/Biodiversity Plan

Biodiversity Plan

Peter Reimann said that he, Frances Lee, and Malcolm McDonald had exchanged reactions to the WCC Draft Biodiversity Action Plan, on which feedback is due with WCC by Friday 10 August. Peter was assembling a response on behalf of the group. [A copy of the submission forwarded to WCC on 10 August is distributed with these minutes.]

Several organisations represented on the group are making their own submissions.

Kilmarston Subdivision

Frances Lee said there have been developments regarding the possible purchase by WCC of the Crows Nest. This and continuing discussions between other appellants and the developer, clouds the timing and scope of an appeal hearing in the Environment Court.

Correspondence

Inwards

21 June	WCC – signage for track crossing private land near upper Ngaio Gorge Road.
22 June	Tregear/Freeman – agreeing to track over private land being shown on mapboards.
25 June	Shrapnell – references to Wadestown Residents Association on appropriate material.
28 June	WCC – confirming garages on Ngaio Gorge Road hold cars or are empty.
4 July	WCC – Kate Mackenzie part-time volunteer coordinator.
5 July	Duffill, Watts and Tse – sewer installation and sewer upgrade, Waikowhai Street.
10 July	Sangster – agreeing to track over private land being shown on mapboards (Nowland agreed by phone).
12 July	WCC – further submissions on infill housing by 13 August.
21 July	GWRC – invitation to Hull’s Creek open day, 11 August.
23 July	WCC – hearings on Plan Changes 45, 46 and variation 33.
25 July	WCC – feedback on our Annual Plan comments.
25 July	GWRC – Community Newsletter on launch of GW environmental awards.
25 July	DOC – Invitation to Wellington Conservation Awards.
27 July	Volunteer Wellington – membership fee overdue.
27 July	Phillips Fox – copy of letter on behalf of WCC to Environment Court relating to the Kilmarston appeal, proposing a deferred evidence exchange timetable.
5 August	Councillor Wade-Brown – Kaiwharawhara estuary.

Outwards

27 June	Ngaio Progressive Association – requesting \$100 from our WCC grant.
2 July	QEII National Trust – thanks for letter.
2 July	Sangster and Nowland – suggesting “Private” signage on track.
2 July	QEII National Trust – covenanting land off Trelissick Crescent.
4 July	Ngaio Progressive Association – acknowledging receipt of \$100 from our WCC grant.
4 July	Tregear/Freeman – thanks for agreeing to mapboards showing track.
4 July	Shrapnell – outlining policy on references to all organisations represented on the group.
16 July	Duffill, Watts and Tse – comments on proposed sewer installation, Waikowhat St.
16 July	WCC – thanks for Council planting in lower Kaiwharawhara valley.
16 July	WCC – signage in park.
19 July	GWRC – inviting Nic Conland (Pollution Officer) to next meeting.
21 July	Councillor Wade-Brown – summary of visit to Kaiwharawhara estuary.
25 July	WCC – thanks for gabions strengthening parts of Korimako Stream.
27 July	Summary of meeting as to future plantings in the park.
1 August	Harry Barton – sewage leaks in the park.

Finance

Peter Reimann advised that should the final payment for the brochure exceed the amount from the WCC grant, this could be met from the current bank balance (\$1,464.70). Frances Lee mentioned that this sum includes the donation of \$735 from St Luke's Church, which is intended for a special project.

Memorandum of Understanding

In response to an enquiry about the delay in WCC responding to the group's reply to the terms of the draft memorandum provided by the Council, Kate Mackenzie said that the absence of Kevin Jamieson on sick leave, and the non-assignment of the work to anyone else, meant the matter is on hold.

In response to a question from Frances Lee, David Sole said the Truby King Trust was the only body to date with which the Council has concluded a memorandum.

Other

In response to an enquiry, David Sole said the uptake by Owyak Waste of the collection of household rubbish, and the sale by WCC of collection vehicles, should have no impact on the capacity of the Council to respond to requests from the group for arranged collections of rubbish and pest weeds from park entrances. David said also that annual rubbish collections run by community organisations as fundraisers should not be affected.

David said requests to WCC from the group for rubbish collections should be directed to Steven Peters. Kate McKenzie said she is happy to facilitate arrangements.

Peter Reimann reported on the recent tree planting in memory of the late wife of the group's previous chairman Richard Northmore. This is a large rewarewa tree, located at an attractive spot by the stream, below the Hanover Street entrance. A seat has also been installed here, which will have a commemorative plaque.

Phil Parnell showed the group an impressive new map of Otari Wilton's bush by Geographx (Roger Smith). The technology exists for 3D maps (this could be useful for the steep Trelissick Park terrain).

Next Meeting

9:30 a.m., Tuesday 18 September 2007, Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 86 Khandallah Road

The meeting concluded at 11:00 a.m.

Next working bees:

Tuesday 14 August	9.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.	Waikowhai Street
Sunday 2 September	1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Hanover Street
Tuesday 11 September	9.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.	Hanover Street