

Trails Committee meeting, Tuesday, 26th April 2016

The Trails Committee is pleased to welcome Camilla Drew as a new member of our group.

Members of the Trails Committee continue their weekly maintenance walks on the Cross Island Trail, with a monthly rotation. Thanks to Tim Fuchs for his maintenance work in April. Since there's usually little garbage to collect, Trails members have decided to spend some of their walks concentrating on specific problem spots.

A recent work bee cleared trails leading to Eagle Rock, and scouted out a new trail to connect to a small bridge we want to build over a small stream draining to Betty's Beach. The committee plans to up-grade some of the other trails in Boyle Point Park, especially the bluff trail west of Betty's Beach, which is close to the cliff edge. Derek Moore of the Parks Dept. requested that we move this trail back from the edge.

Other trail development concepts discussed include development of the Corrigal corridor right-of-way to connect the top of Corrigal Road to the top of Mallard Way. The Trails Committee hopes to gain support from the wider Denman community for this route as a next leg of the Cross Island Trail. Another possible improvement is a boardwalk that the Island Trust Fund may finance, to cross the marsh bordering Shaun White's property, south of the Greenhill Road turn-a-round. The committee scouted a possible trail around this marsh, all on public land, but if the boardwalk is built, this will be unnecessary.

The Denman Fire Department has a satisfactory map of trails in the Northlands Park, and many of our committee already have copies of it. Derek Moore has erected a park map by the Butterfly Reserve area that shows most of the trails in the park. The only trail missing is Graeme's Trail.

The committee agreed to seek funding from the three real estate companies operating on the island for funding to support trail development. Allan has written a letter, which Graeme approved.

The DIRA executive approved, in principle, the practice of Trails Committee members donating their honoraria, for trails work, back to the Trails Committee, so long as Trails Committee members don't feel compelled to do this. But some DIRA members object to this, and object to the payment of honoraria altogether. This may be brought up at the next DIRA meeting on May 9th. Trails Committee members are urged to attend this DIRA meeting, to vote as a block to defend our right to spend our funds as we see fit.

Dates were set for some trail clearing, and building a small bridge in Boyle Point Park. Once the trail is cleared, Allan's 6X6 should be able to carry tools and material to the bridge site where we can construct our small bridge. Meet at the main Park entrance ***on Tuesday, 10th May at 9.30-am to participate.***

Our next hike is planned for the ***31st May***; meet to car-pool for the ***9.40-am ferry***. We will be hiking the Little Qualicum Falls area as recommended by Ralph.

Anne and Margie will report on the Trails Committee activities to the DIRA web site using the monthly minutes as a base for their report.

Our next meeting is: **Tuesday, 24th May, 2016 at the Fire-hall at 7.30 pm.**