

# North Vancouver Community Associations Network (NVCAN)

## Minutes of Regular Meeting

Date: Wednesday March 16, 2022

Location: Zoom

Time: 7:00 – 9:25 pm

### Present:

John Miller (Chair)	Lower Capilano
Eric Andersen	Blueridge
Katherine Fagerlund	Deep Cove
Corrie Kost	Edgemont Upper Capilano
Erik Skowronek	Edgemont Upper Capilano
Gillian Kost	Lynn Valley
Irene Davidson	Norgate Park
Herman Mah	Pemberton Heights
Peter Teevan	Seymour
Babs Perowne	Woodcroft

### Guests:

Amanda Nicholls	PAC representative
Cyndi Gerlach	

### Regrets:

Val Moller	Woodcroft
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**Welcome.** John welcomed members and guests to the Zoom meeting. He then asked Eric Andersen to introduce our guest speaker, Amanda Nicholls, and the topic for discussion. Eric spoke on the value of community associations forming relationships with local PACs. Amanda Nicholls then spoke of the value to PACs in liaising with community associations.

- 1. Approval of Agenda** With the addition of an item for New Business: Useful to invite District MLA's re Provincial action on fast-tracking urban development, the Agenda was approved.
- 2. Approval of Minutes for January 19, 2022, February 16, 2022.** The minutes were approved.
- 3. New Business:**
  - a. NVCAN website** Babs reported that a new host had been selected and work was underway to move the existing website to the new host. The original website was created when NVCAN was formed in 2016. This conversion presents a convenient opportunity to review its content and whether it meets the needs of the CAs.
  - b. Discussion on In the News** After discussion, it was revealed that members were not taking advantage of this detailed work. In future, Corrie will provide a monthly list of links to relevant news articles rather than reformatting the articles for presentation purposes.
  - c. Discussion on content of Useful Information** After discussion, there was no consensus on which items should be put in this section going forward. However, where references are made to items on other websites such as the materials published by North Shore Emergency Management, CAs would be better served to have the link to the site rather than specific documents. Some links to references are broken and Babs will remove these items from the

list. Of particular value are the report on DNV Redevelopment by Zone, updates to the DNV Housing Needs Report, and policy topics

- d. **Useful to invite District MLA's re Provincial action on fast-tracking urban development** Peter introduced the topic of Municipal Development Approval Process as it relates to housing and development approvals as proposed by the BC Government. After discussion, it was agreed that Peter would ask MLA Bowinn Ma and MLA Susie Chant to attend a meeting of NVCAN to discuss the topic. Our members agreed that we would schedule a special Zoom meeting if the MLAs could not meet on one of our regular meeting dates.

#### 4. **Community Round Table.**

- a. **Lynn Valley** Gillian reported LVCA will be responding to the two preliminary development applications for the Safeway and Black Bear sites in the Lynn Valley Town Centre. We do have concerns about these applications. Our Speaker Series returns on March 31, via zoom, with Sgt Bracewell of BlockWatch on the topic of "Creating Safer Neighbourhoods". Our Annual Park Project returns on April 9 with an invasive plant species pull on the Arborlynn trail. We are planning a Family Fun Day, which will be a post COVID celebration involving free family fun, old fashioned games and entertainment. Our second "Make a Difference" challenge is launched, we are hoping for 300 \$10 coffee cards, one for every person experiencing homelessness on the North Shore. Outreach workers use coffee cards to encourage people to make social connections, and access vital health and social services.
- b. **Norgate** Irene reported the Norgate Park AGM was held on March 10, 2022 by Zoom. Four new Directors were elected. Minutes will be available shortly. We are currently creating an up to date email list of members. The directors are looking into setting up a website. Discussion will continue at our next meeting on April 21st. The work on the WWTP (Sewage Treatment Plant) has restarted. Metro Vancouver is paying PCL Constructors to complete the project. The DNV proposes a sidewalk construction project near Norgate Elementary School. Consultation with those affected in the community is scheduled to take place in 2023.
- c. **Seymour** Peter expressed concerns regarding the by-law on E-Scooters as many of the pathways in Seymour are too narrow to handle bikes and pedestrians. These paved pathways would qualify for E-Scooters under the bylaw.
- d. **Deep Cove** Katherine reported on the a) Naughton Avenue Detour - A DNV survey resulted in 1288 participants with 47% in favour of Option 1 - revegetate, 32% in favour of Option 3 - full transportation link, 21% in favour of Option 2 - active transportation link & emergency access. Summarizing: 47% were in favour of full return to forest, 53% for some sort of link. Staff recommended Option 2. This item was discussed at the February 28th Council Meeting. Jim Hanson brought forward a motion to adopt Option 1. Council vote resulted in a 3/3 split, so a hung jury and defeat of Councillor Hanson's motion. Mayor Little's motion to refer the Issue to a Council Workshop for further deliberation was supported. The Workshop is currently scheduled for March 28th. Concerns have been expressed about the public process—i.e., clarifying the difference between surveys/petitions and referendums/plebiscites and how Council balances public input (what the public versus Council sees and hears) vs. Staff recommendations. Katherine reported there is no update on Gallant Avenue 'beautifications', or on parking restrictions. Also, Quarry Rock is still 'officially' closed. A community picnic – in the works but no firm date yet.
- e. **EUCCA** Eric S. reported that a location of the 'Little Kitchen Academy' opened in Edgemont Village following about 6 months of renovations. This offers cooking lessons to children from ages 3 to 19. Capacity is 10 students per session. Each session lasts 3 hours and costs from \$110 up. This being Spring Break week, it has been fairly busy.  
*Capilano Suspension Bridge* Eric reported Capilano Suspension Bridge purchased a number of duplexes and a townhouse complex across Capilano Road from the Bridge location. A number of

years ago they proposed applying for a Temporary Use Permit to put in a parking lot on that property. This was met with significant opposition from neighbours living in the area for a number of reasons (noise and fumes for one and removal of affordable housing as another - as examples). As a result, the bridge decided against proceeding at that time. In the fall of 2021, the Duplexes and townhouses were demolished leaving an open area devoid of anything - basically a large dirt field. With the atmospheric river episodes we had last fall, a number of residences behind this area had their back yards flooded and a few actually had the water enter basement suites and displaced tenants. It would seem that, though the housing units had connections to storm sewers, following the demolition, water control disappeared. The Suspension Bridge is now planting some trees on the property. They also own some homes on the street behind the property raising concern from residents that another attempt to apply for a parking lot use will surface with access potentially being through their property off that side street, thus increasing traffic through a residential neighbourhood. This will be an ongoing concern in the area. The trees have been planted in front of the property along Capilano Road like a fence but at the north end of the property, this planting curves inward like an entrance lane. This would raise expectations that the parking proposal is coming.

*Obtaining information from the District.* About 18 months ago one of the red light poles in Edgemont Village was removed. The bolts in the sidewalk are still there and have been covered with a 'cone'. After numerous attempts over the intervening time period, on the morning of Friday, March 18, 2022 I was informed by the engineering Department that they have been told by the Transportation Department that the pole will be replaced. However, they are a custom order and there have been delays with the supplier and that it would be installed in the near future. Finally, a definitive answer??

**f. Blueridge.** Eric A. reported as follows:

in January Mayor Little was invited to a meeting to discuss local issues as he did last year. He should be commended for having started what could become a 'tradition' for community associations, at least as long as he is the DNV mayor. A BCA board meeting was held via Zoom in March. A most productive meeting was held with a couple of representatives from Seymour Heights Elementary School. They both seemed interested in working more closely with the BCA and exchange information about events etc.

In August the BCA was asked to participate in the Recreation Access Management Plan (RAMP) process which is dealing with the (170 ha forested) land owned by the CMHC. A consultant prepared a draft report which all the twelve stakeholders were asked to comment on via Zoom interviews in March. The consultant received 1,702 responses to their survey, which is considered extremely high, and shows the general interest in the use of this piece of recreational land. Generally it was agreed that it was an excellent and detailed report, but with insufficient emphasis on the on-going parking problem in upper Blueridge. The revised and final report is expected a bit later this year.

Before the end of March a coffee meeting will be held with local MLA, Susie Chant. A planned Zoom meeting last year was cancelled, so we then only got to discuss local issues with our MLA's assistant.

BCA is working on an 8-page newsletter which should go to the print shop before the end of March. The BCA's AGM will be held on May 10 and will – like the one held in 2021 – be held in a hybrid version: partly at our local coffee shop, United Strangers, and partly via Zoom.

In view of the short time left to prepare for Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (usually held in early June), it was agreed to skip this event this year and hopefully be back with a vengeance in 2023.

**g. Pemberton Heights** Herman reported:

*CornerStone Bistro - Live Music Thursdays* This is the key meeting point in our community. It made it through two years of COVID and has begun hosting "live music" events again on Thursday nights. Live Music Thursdays — The Corner Stone Bistro ([cornerstone-bistro.com](http://cornerstone-bistro.com)).

*Ashdown Park Garden - Spring Clean-Up* This community event will bring out all those with "green thumbs" as well as anyone who just wants to meet their neighbours and get out in the fresh air. The event will be held on Sunday, May 15 from 10am to 2pm.

*Canada Day in Pemberton Heights* Preliminary planning will soon begin on this trademark community event.

**NVRC Commission Update**

a. Lions Gate Community Centre: Target opening day is Monday, March 28  
b. Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre: Early civil works has begun (i.e. relocating utilities) and the location for the new Centre became an active construction site as of Monday, March 14. The biggest impact will be the loss of parking for users going to programs at the existing Centre

- h. Woodcroft.** Babs passed on Val's regrets at missing meetings through illness.
- i. Lower Capilano** John reported that street cleaning has been taking place in the area.

**5. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 – Regular Meeting**

**6. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm**

## **Appendix – Eric Andersen’s background to the PAC Discussion**

Create or improve communication between the local community associations (CAs) and the local PACs

### **How?**

Reach out to each other.

The CAs can get the contact details of their PACs from the local schools or from any of the school trustees.

The PACs can get the contact details of their local community association via North Vancouver Community Associations Network’s (NVCAN) website:

<http://nvcn.ca/community-association-websites/>

### **Whose responsibility?**

Anybody can make the first move and approach the local PAC or CA. It is not anybody’s special responsibility. Whoever sees the advantage first should make the first move.

### **Why?**

Because far too often there is no proper communication between the local PACs and CAs. One hand doesn’t know what the other one is doing, even if we are living in the same community.

### **Who?**

Improved communication will only benefit the community as a whole.  
We are not and should not be living in separate silos

### **Where?**

Anywhere with PACs and CAs

### **What can be achieved together?**

CAs and PACs can assist each other in getting the word out, e.g. using newsletters, Facebook, Instagram, websites, e-bulletins etc (e.g. for events, fundraising, parades)

They can host joint meetings with topics of interest to all members of the community (and not just parents), including e.g. all-candidates meetings

They can host fun events together (including activities for kids)

They can help each other with local issues, such as traffic, parking, parks, playgrounds, sharing gardens

**The sky is the limit!**

### **When?**

Start right now!