

## **Cass Bay Reserve committee**

**Minutes of meeting held Wednesday February 1, 2024**

**Time:** 7.30

**Venue:** 5 Cass Bay Place.

**Present:** Hemi Korako, Ine Schils, Liz Hales, Dave Taylor, Noraini Abbas, Tracy Prince, Taka Kuze, Jenny Healey, Chris Nee and Karen Banwell.

**In attendance:**

**Staff members present:** Paul Devlin and Nick Singleton

**Apologies:** Warner Russell, Marjorie Russell, Tyrone Fields, and Jeremy Webb

**Declarations of Interest:** None were declared.

**Confirmation of Minutes** – accepted Jenny/ Liz

Track to summit is a success, experienced walkers have been walking, it's a rough track so will leave until winter so can identify the wetter slippery areas to fix. Paul has arranged for the gates to be open for public access 24/7 as people have been locked in.

Pony Point – 3 volunteers are watering the fire-resistant plants in the gum trees as they are not looking good. Warner and John Fitch have been working on the alternative track to Pony Point, which has proved very popular, asked if there was a photograph when it was all gorse and no trees. Unknown if one exists. Jenny to check. There are now 56 totora in the gums in the eucalypts and a further 50 are growing well within the gorse in Steadfast.

Paul confirmed that plants and protectors had been ordered for this planting year. Andrew Hensley may have a plan for upgrading the road by the gate to Steadfast for safe crossing.

Warner had a question about the poplars near the track in Steadfast that were poisoned and are now falling over, Nick will investigate. Paul informed the committee that Warner could do chain saw training that allowed him to cut up trees on the ground but not to cut down.

A tree on the walk to the Memorial planting needs to be removed as it is in poor condition and breaking up and will be looked at by Nick.

Trapping regularly catches possums, rats and hedgehogs. Planting areas in Steadfast now has riparian planting high up until rock fall no go area.

Pony Point – may do a different loop path for the track and may need a resource consent for a new track under the gums to the left of the gully. Will fence track to make sure the ponies cannot get on it. Different options will be presented and work will be done by Christmas 2024. Simon Bannister has offered to put a seat in, Nick suggested it is placed on a side trip so can see the view. Jenny and Nick to check out a suitable spot.

Steadfast – Possibility of the track to Summit Road being part of the Head to Head walkway, this would bring in more funding. The junior mountain bike track has not progressed so far.

Noraini- asked about young people planting 1K trees for the children of Palestine. Paul noted that this would need permission from the Community Board. He suggested that they ask permission from their local community board and think about planting within the red zone in the city.

Paul – Steadfast and asbestos. Paul outlined that the army had asked for an asbestos report. Air sensing of the board room and drill hall were completed. Swabs and air testing came back positive so access has been restricted. Bunker 10 also was positive, CVNZ has been informed. It is not known how bad the contamination is only that it is there. Paul gave the sites where soil has been tested near plantings and only one site is positive, other soils samples showed it was ok and not present on the tracks so they can keep open. Sampled around the buildings with 15 of the 16 testing positive, which is not a surprise. Paul now needs to do a qualitative assessment of the samples and from this can assess the risk. More sampling is needed near the exploded bunker as it is close to the planting site. Bunker 10 has restrictions in place and council are organising a removal plan to empty it. Wardroom building – two swabs were positive with minimal detection for air monitoring. Drill Hall below minimal detection with positive swabs so is a Class A removal. Quarter master – guard room results are pending. Need to do a health risk for all who have used the buildings, though at present it appears to be very localised.

Good processes need to be in place for the planting season, this includes providing information about equipment for the planters eg masks and gloves. The Community Board will need to make a decision about how to use the site. Paul plans to keep a corridor open for the tracks as well as the planting plan.

Jenny outlined the planting days for June. 20 volunteers are checking traps and actively watering, although they now cannot release or weed eat. Would like to get the boneseed cleared before it flowers in August.

Noraini asked if she can put up a banner in March as haven't formalised the Memorial and would like formal recognition for the site later this year. From 15th March there is an exhibition at 40 Winchester Street of embroidery to do with the attack. Will be open to the public on the 16<sup>th</sup> day March

Jenny asked the committee if they were keen for a logo, she showed the Whaka-Ora logo and it was agreed to have something similar. Hemi is to design something to share with the group.

Cass Bay Place reserve – a local resident has extended his garden and retaining wall into the reserve. Compliance from CCC cannot issue an abatement as the work is completed but is in contact as the land owner who will likely need a resource consent. This will be followed up by CCC staff as he has intruded onto the reserve which is against the Reserves Act.

CCC staff were thanked for their work on the track that leads to the summit from Steadfast in an email from Jeremy.

Meeting closed at 9.45