

Cass Bay Reserve committee

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday March 6, 2024

Time: 7.45 pm

Venue: 5 Cass Bay Place.

Present: Liz Hales, Tracy Prince, Jenny Healey, Chris Nee, Warner Russell, Tyrone Fields, and Jeremy Webb, Ine Schils

In attendance:

Staff members present: Paul Devlin

Apologies: Marjorie Russell, Noraini Abbas, Karen Banwell, Dave Taylor, Taka Kuze

Declarations of Interest: None were declared.

Confirmation of Minutes – accepted Jenny/ Liz

Correspondence: Email from TTK that Tōtara need to be monitored and reported. Ine will do this.

Health and Safety:

Paul – Steadfast and asbestos.

- The report with more details on the levels of contamination should be out in the next few days. There is one last test to do (activity test – mowing)
- Materials stored in bunker 10 will be decontaminated and returned to the owners to be stored elsewhere. Paul is in the process of getting a quote.
- Potential impact on planting sites for next season will be known in a few weeks.
- Paul will invite an Environmental Health Scientist to explain the results to the people affected.

Port Hills Fires:

- Paul explains how he saw first hand that the native planting was much more fire resilient.
- Jenny emphasizes she has ordered fire resilient species for this year's planting

Update from working groups:

Watering:

- 17 volunteers are involved in the watering!

- Plants overall are looking great.
- Rangers spend a lot of time filling up the water tanks. It takes 3 rangers half a day to fill up the top tanks. Paul is looking at installing a solar pump to avoid this and have a continuous system.
- The barrels for watering the plants in the slip need to be filled. It is a big job to do these plants and fill the barrels. It will be good to find volunteers to help with this. Jenny will contact Matt about a system.

Track to summit:

The track will be suggested as an option for the Head to Head walk. It would link up with Crater Rim walk and provide options to go down via Allendale or continue along.

Track to Pony Point:

- Track is well used and well loved.
- Jenny had a meeting onsite with Nick Singleton:
 - Warner's track needs to be benched a bit more in certain spots. This will be done in an upcoming working bee (see below)
 - Question was raised if it is a good idea to put shingle down on the track. For now, this won't be done as it might make the track more slippery. The idea is to let a winter pass and see the impact on the track before deciding on further upgrades.
 - The steep uphill track will be made into a gentler zigzag uphill.
 - The Pony Point track will become an excellent loop track!
 - Nick will have a look at the dead trees in the forest.
- Lyttelton Sea Scouts contacted Jenny for a working bee with team Australia (Sail GP) and Pigeon Bay Yacht Club. This will be on Thursday 21/03 in the evening. Suggested is they do this track work, watering plants and rubbish cleanup.

Kaimahi for Nature & Conservation work skills team

- The Rāpaki team has been working on clearing Boneseed and Boxthorn from the Eucalypt forest and Pony Point over two days in the last month. Within the Eucalypt forest most/ all of it is cleared. It created a lot of area that can be planted. In the Pony Point area a good dent has been made.
- Jenny acknowledges that a lot of progress has been made over the last two years with the help of the Kaimahi for Nature Team and asks for her thanks to be passed on to the team.
- The Rāpaki team is finishing up by the end of March as the funding has run out.
- CCC team KFN Team will be able to continue with CCC funding and might be able to help out in the reserve in the future. To be discussed.

- Conservation Work Skills Team will be coming in to help on 09/04. Tasks will be decided on after results asbestos come back.

Planting Season:

- Jenny asks Paul if CCC can do plant site preparation with spraying. She believes spraying has a positive effect on the plant growth and the ease of maintenance. Paul can have spot spraying done before the planting season starts, once is known where they will plant.
- Ine notes that she is against spraying for the means of planting and plant releasing. Glyphosate has been restricted in Europe for many years. It is thought to be toxic to the aquatic life and carcinogenic for humans. It should be done with the utmost caution and as a last resort. She feels it is unnecessary for planting and plant releasing. The planting site in Rāpaki hasn't been spray prepared or spray released and the plants (+30.000) are doing really well.
- Planting days: The idea is to plant earlier, mid June, once on a Saturday and once on a Sunday morning to not interfere with Saturday sports or church. Saturday 8th , Sunday 16th

Other matters:

Cass Bay Place reserve – a local resident has extended his garden and retaining wall into the reserve. No update yet, to be followed up.

Meeting closed at 9pm