



Waikawau Boat Ramp Society AGM

Minutes, Thames Sailing Club, 21.07.19 at 10am

Present: 50 members attended including the following office holders and committee members, Eric Carter, Matt Juby, Peter Hudson, Terry Hawkeswood, Bev Walker, Rowan Christini, John Sanford, Bill Malcolm, Mike Simpson and Mike Lander.

Apologies: Grayson Reynolds, Phil Pawley, David Sinton, Kristopher West, David Prowse, Murray Loye, Bruce Bogan, Phil Walton, Trevor Disher, Doug Emmett, Eric Hamilton and Murray Pratt.

Moved Alan Gamble and John Sanford, Carried

The Minutes of our last AGM were distributed before the meeting and taken as read. Moved as a true and correct record, John Sanford and Mike Lander. Carried

Matters Arising. Charitable Trust status is still being looked into by Matt and Charles Verry as the advantages are that IRD will not be a concern and sizeable donations will attract rebate opportunities for members and benefactors of the WBRS.

Monies earmarked for the investigative work into the viability of developing Waipatukahu/Tapu as a future overflow ramp possibility by the 2017 AGM will be discussed in our President's Report.

President's Report: Eric thanked everyone for coming and he especially thanked the willing team of Ramp Wardens who did a fantastic job this last year.

He commented that we have worked hard on connecting with Iwi and read out Liane Ngamane's recent, very positive email to reiterate this. We are coming up to renewing our License to Occupy and wanted to know if we still had to go through TCDC. Liane's email dated 18.07.19 basically informed us of the frustrating delays they are experiencing as to the final settlement of their Treaty Claim and suggested that they would not be in a position to talk seriously with us until close to 2021. In the meantime, provided our relationship remains positive, open and with continued goodwill, the status quo with TCDC will continue and suggested another three years under the license to occupy. This is great news for WBRS but it is up to us to ensure that our good relationship continues.

Eric then spoke about the Waipatukahu/Tapu Point project and the work of Tonkin and Taylor. We are considering having their work peer reviewed and will then be in a position to talk with Iwi and TCDC.

We carried out a covert operation with the help of Alan Gamble to see just how much money we were losing through our non-paying ramp users and this could be as high as \$30 to \$40,000 per year. We are looking at a license plate recognition system similar to what the NZ Transport Agency use on their toll roads. TCDC are very keen to see how we get on and if it works will be looking at doing something similar on their ramps. Costs currently are \$10,000 to install the camera on a pole, \$4,000

to get it operating and maybe up to \$300 per month ongoing costs. Our committee will consider all the fishhooks in the scheme before making any decision as to its installation.

Getting rid of the rubbish bins by the TCDC has been smooth with members and ordinary visitors being encouraged to pack out what they pack in.

Our other major concern are the toilets which have been out of water for the last few months and Eric is in regular contact with TCDC who tell him they are working on a solution.

Eric stated that he had enjoyed his time as president and was happy to put his name forward for another year. His report is attached. Moved Eric and Matt Juby.

Treasurer's Report:

Matt distributed copies earlier to the members and directed them also to our web page.

Our books are very healthy and they need to be for our plans for the future. We have had a membership increase of 5% to a total of 988, just short of our predicted 1,000 and an increase of 28% in casual daily use by non-members. In the previous financial year we were hit hard by the January 2018 weather event when use of the coast road was restricted, achieving just 1,300 visits instead of the usual 1,700 or more using the ramp. Volume this year was up most months, with our honesty box up by \$16,000 and revenue for our day passes up by \$46,000.

We have a new auditor, Sarah Dillon of Absolute Auditing in Tauranga offering her services at the same rate as our previous auditor.

Our big expenses were around our consultancy and dredging fees all of which are attached. Moved Matt and Peter Hudson

Election of Officers:

We currently have a full team of twelve, five with special tasks and seven committee members. The following were appointed as no other nominations were received.

President: Eric Carter, nominated by Bruce Morgan and Allan Gamble. Accepted

Vice President: John Sanford, nominated by Matt Juby and Bev Walker. Accepted

Treasurer: Matt Juby, nominated by Alan Gamble and John Sanford. Accepted

Secretary: Mike Lander, nominated by Peter Hudson and Matt Juby. Accepted

Membership Secretary, Bev Walker, nominated by Matt Juby and Peter Hudson. Accepted

Members: Moved by Eric that the current committee of seven members, Bruce Bogan, Terry Hawkeswood, Bill Malcolm, Greg Ward, Rowan Christini, Mike Simpson and Peter Hudson be re-elected for the coming year, seconded by John S, Passed.

Bill Whyte nominated Lin Clinton, saying that Lin is retired and now has time to assist as ramp warden and on the committee. Lin was asked to talk to the meeting and she spoke briefly about her clerical/administration experience.

Our constitution recommends a set number for the committee however we are allowed to co-opt two more as needed for a special project or purpose so Lloyd Downing suggested that Lin could be co-opted onto the committee at their next meeting. Agreed.

Matt Juby spoke about our new auditor and moved that Absolute Auditing continue at the fee of \$1,300 as our auditor for the next year, Seconded by Eric, Passed

General Business: The License to Occupy is coming up for renewal in December, currently the area caters for just over 50 cars and trailers. Mike Moore asked about our use of the wider area especially on our bigger days. Eric explained that TCDC and now Iwi are happy to allow us to overflow at this time, into the rest of the Waikawau Reserve, but this will come under review at a later date.

Eric also explained that Jim Dahm is advising that we can streamline our reporting to the Waikato Regional Council re our dredging reports which are costing us heavily. Currently we are being lauded and used as a good example to other groups by the WRC through contracting Kerepehi Transport Limited and Donald Sangster at Thames Environment Consultancy but in future we may hopefully need to just report on the volume we taken out of the Waikawau Stream.

Eric answered a few questions regarding the viability of using License Plate Recognition at Waikawau as we estimate that up to 38% of users do not pay but as Alan Gamble stated, this is a work in progress and can be reported on to members once the committee has looked at it more thoroughly. There are a number of fish hooks to work through before making a decision.

Our Toilet problem is a major as Council still have not come up with a viable solution to get water to the tanks. The toilets are substandard anyway and well overdue for replacement. Iwi want them upgraded and sited to the concrete bunker area. Eric asked TCDC about the one million dollars being granted by the Government for toilet upgrades but was told that this was all going to the east coast of the peninsula.

Tapu Point. Our members at our AGM two years ago, allocated \$50,000 for us to investigate the possibility of establishing a backup ramp at Waipatukaha/Tapu Point and this we have done. Our consultancy costs are topping \$37,000 with Tonkin and Taylor looking at the tidal and storm flows, bathymetric surveys, depths and wave measurements, and the possibility of building a wall to protect a four pontoon ramp some 185 metres out into the firth. The executive committee are currently looking at the draft plans and massive costs involved and will report back to members as to their recommendations before taking them to both Iwi and the TCDC for comment and support. Eric suggested that the Government's Tourism Fund may have a solution for us. Ray Hagenson asked the question as to why we are spending money at Tapu and was told that this is what we were directed to do by our members because clearly the mussel farms are proving to be more and more popular by fishos from all around the upper North Island and that at Waikawau, the stream continues to force its way north eating its way towards the road, it has restricted parking and will always have major dredging problems.

Eric also explained that with Tapu Point the scientists and TNZ are all saying that it could be a GO! John Sanford made it clear that we are investigating the possibilities but that all our Waikawau Boat Ramp funds will not be going to Tapu.

Bruce Efford spoke about his concerns this proposed ramp would have on his Tapu community and that NZTA would also have concerns.

Eric produced a letter dated 24th October, 2018 explaining that the TNZ had looked at our proposal and is not opposed in principle to providing a safe turnaround system off the coast road. It would have to carry out a Traffic Impact Assessment but that it was possible. The call from Bruce Efford was that he was still on the committee at that time and had not heard about the letter from TNZ. He called our president a 'liar' which shocked the meeting. A point of order was called by Lloyd Downing and a request was made for us to move on. *

Moving on a question was asked about the parking capacity at Tapu Point and was told that it was greater than what we currently use at Waikawau. Eric explained that at Waikawau, Iwi were planning to establish bollards along from the road to the frontage of the trams, providing a helipad for use by Westpac Rescue and sectioning off other parts of the reserve i.e. the dotterel nesting area as well as establishing a native planting area, removing our old storage container and building their own waka whare.

Clancy Nixon spoke about offering a Life Membership to one of our members who had provided sterling work over a good number of years. He called upon the meeting to acknowledge Matt Juby, our treasurer, for Life Membership which was promptly seconded by Eric, the meeting unanimously agreed. Matt was taken aback by this but warmly accepted.

John Sanford moved, "That the honorarium for next year be raised from \$6,000 to \$8,000 ". This was seconded by Eric. John then spoke of the rationale and it was passed by the meeting.

Bruce Efford asked that the AGM minutes in draft be posted on the net for all to read and that in the future, if anyone was to resign that it be not taken as his word but rather it needed to be received in writing.

John Sanford suggested that it was time for us to look at our constitution with a view to upgrading it to meet our current growth and development and this would also be a timely task to do with regard to our Charitable Trust status proposal.

Attached are the President's and Treasurer's Reports.

Eric thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 12 noon.

**(Footnote: Bruce Efford had in fact resigned at the end of the August meeting well prior to the TNZ letter being tabled and discussed but he was present when the TNZ investigation preliminary findings were reported on by Eric at that same August meeting. This from the meeting minutes following that discussion, "Bruce Bogan asked about the Transit NZ consultant's and their positive view regarding the Tapu Point corner and was told that we are still awaiting a letter from TNZ to confirm the viability of access off the coast road." Mike Lander, Secretary WBRS)*