



REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 28, 2020 @ 3:30 PM
George Fraser Room, Ucluelet Community Centre,
500 Matterson Drive, Ucluelet

LATE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Addition to the Agenda Item No. 11.1 **Information Items**
 - a) **Press Release – Spring Cove and the Safe Harbour Trail**

**For Immediate Release
January 28, 2020**

Spring Cove and the Safe Harbour Trail

The District of Ucluelet Council is issuing the following statement to clarify facts and the District's position regarding the validity of an existing statutory right-of-way for a boardwalk and trail following the shoreline of Spring Cove, and providing public access moving forward.

Over the past 20 years, construction of the initial sections of the Wild Pacific Trail has been a resounding success; experiencing the wild nature of our coastline is an intrinsic part of the everyday life of residents and a trip highlight for visitors. The District of Ucluelet's vision is to extend pedestrian trails along the full length of the Ucluth Peninsula (on both the outer Wild Pacific and inner Safe Harbour sides of the peninsula), following the shoreline wherever possible.

The original Reef Point development approved by Council was planned to include a waterfront boardwalk and trail following the shoreline of Spring Cove (hence the name of Boardwalk Boulevard). Unfortunately, only portions of the boardwalk trail were constructed by the original developer. One function of this trail would be to allow guests of the adjacent commercial tourist accommodation properties to step directly onto the trail and experience the nature of the cove.

The first phase of the municipal Spring Cove trail is now under construction parallel to Peninsula Road, opening this spring. It will allow trail users to follow the shoreline from Boardwalk Boulevard along Spring Cove and connect ultimately to the Coast Guard lands and the existing trail network to the lighthouse at Amphitrite Point. With the opening of this section of trail (ribbon cutting will be this spring, date to be announced), residents and visitors alike will experience the historic setting of the Spring Cove section of the future Safe Harbour trail network. The vision for this trail, expressed in the Official Community Plan bylaw for the last decade, is to eventually connect around the cove to Helen Road and existing trail rights-of-way on Hyphocus Island.

Construction of the second phase of the Spring Cove trail – the portion fronting the commercial properties along Boardwalk Boulevard – is not scheduled or budgeted within the District's 5-year financial plan. Extending the trail is a long-term project. The District has been preparing for the future phases by beginning to pursue the preparatory survey work, ecological and archaeological reviews which precede all trail construction conducted by the District. Notice of survey work was what initiated the response from one property owner, resulting in the legal challenge to the statutory right-of-way held by the District. This right-of-way is registered on the title of the waterfront properties in the Boardwalk Boulevard area.

The District has acknowledged the weakness of the existing statutory right-of-way registered 20 years ago on the Boardwalk Boulevard properties. The District has offered a new right-of-way agreement to property owners in which the District takes full responsibility for the construction, maintenance and liability which naturally comes with any public trail functioning as part of the municipal parks and trails network. Many waterfront property owners along Boardwalk Boulevard have already signed the new statutory right-of-way which now replaces the old agreement. The District will continue to offer to register the "new and improved" statutory right-of-way for interested property owners.

The timing of further trail construction will depend on a number of factors: how quickly the District can connect the new right-of-way across a continuous section of properties, the availability of grants and budget priorities of Council. If the community and neighbouring property owners wish to see trail construction accelerated, their support will be key.

For more information visit www.ucluelet.ca or contact the District of Ucluelet at 250-726-7744.