Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association Minutes of Committee Meeting held at The Blue House, Blackjack Road

2 July 2020

Committee members Brent Page, Chair; Kathy Speirs, Treasurer; Kate Nielsen, Secretary; Luke Reilly, Craig Lidgard, Carrie Parker, Carolyn Gibbs, Alastair Brickell, Bruce Pilkington

Meeting opened: 6pm Present: Brent, Kathy, Carrie, Kate, Alastair, Luke, Carolyn Public: Bill Muir, for the public input session only Apologies: Craig, Bruce

1.<u>Public Input</u>: Bill has spoken to Steve Bremner, who has agreed to move any excess rocks from the Fire Station bank repair to the boat ramp, to shore up erosion.

2.<u>Minutes</u>: Minutes of the previous committee meeting, held 21 May 2020, accepted as a true and accurate record. **moved:** Carrie **seconded:** Carolyn **Passed**

Matters arising from the minutes: Running through the action plan:

Alastair circulated some proposed Noticeboard guidelines. Resulting discussion: the noticeboard will be used for specific events and services in, relating to, or benefitting the people of Kuaotunu. Notices regarding ongoing ideological or political stances will not be posted. Notices from other areas may be posted as space permits, with geographical prioritisation. A4 is the maximum size. No payment will be sought. Common sense will be exercised re postings and removal thereof; the committee is always available for consultation if tricky situations arise. The guidelines will be posted in the Noticeboard, and on the website. The keys have been copied.

Alastair also made a submission on Dark Skies to the Mercury Bay North Chairs, + councillors, + Scott Simpson. There is general support, but the project will require Alastair driving it to get into a practical phase. The first priority is to get Council to adopt a lighting management plan. Alastair to create a concrete action plan with timeline. A Community Board Grant application may follow: Signage around the beaches would help increase public support and awareness, and a video of the history of the project, some astral photography (!), would be useful too. Luke to talk to Josh Kennedy re video. Note CB Grant funds must be spent within the financial year. Also advantageous would be to have Laurna White on board and advocating from the inside.

Luke asked James Muir for an interim water-quality report, but none is forthcoming, so we won't have anything to report to the AGM. Mark Bunyan has been introduced to Carrie re the Dune Care group and is enthusiastic.

Carrie replied to Tim Hayde re yoga/concessions, and submitted a nomination to the Coastal Panel - see below in Correspondence. (Graeme Osborne also submitted.) *Brent* has replied to one KEA letter, but there's another to discuss (below in Correspondence).

Kathy has asked Incorporated Societies, hasn't had a reply, but isn't worried.

Kate put the post in KT Katchup re lockdown photos.

3.Correspondence:

Correspondence is in the Dropbox.

Correspondence accepted, moved: Carolyn seconded: Alastair Passed

Matters arising from the correspondence:

Carrie's reply from the <u>Coastal Panel</u>: they had lots of expressions of interest and are working through the selection process; we'll be informed when the Panel is ratified. Carrie, if chosen, is happy to do it, with the support of the KRRA as sounding board.

<u>Reserve Management Plan drop-in session</u>: Carrie will attend tomorrow, 3/7/20, and wants the committee's agreement to raise the following issues:

- KRRA requests consultation over concession applications and wishes to limit concessions on Kuaotunu reserves; no helicopter landing pad
- we need clarity over the Domain Board, monies associated with the board, possibilities of development of the land for sports grounds
- macrocarpa removal: TCDC is going to remove a rotten tree opposite Kawhero Drive, after two big branches fell. A pillar of stump will be left for creature habitat. The committee agrees that TCDC is responsible for the safe management of the macrocarpa trees; we appreciate the consultation. The immediate neighbours are in agreementwith the removal. The wider community should be apprised of the felling before it happens -Kate to put a post in KT Katchup.

Carrie to speak at the session on these matters.

<u>Spat farm appeal letter</u>: the opponents to the spat farm are seeking funds to go to the Environment Court. The KRRA can be a conduit of information on this issue but it would be inappropriate to use KRRA funds. Brent will speak briefly on the Spat Farm appeal at the AGM. <u>KEA letter</u> #2, and supporting documents. KEA have replied with clarification of "poison-free": they are referring specifically to 1080 and similar broadly applied chemicals that end up in pig meat (not to domestically applied weed-killers and rat poisons etc). The Kuaotunu Community Plan and its 2018 refresh show support for a poison-free and pest-free environment and the KRRA will continue to lobby for this where we can; however we have no authority to ban anything. We also recognise we cannot be involved in political conflicts within the community. Brent to reply to John Watson and KEA.

Penguin signs are up! FR has paid KRRA, who are waiting for the invoice from Higgins.

4. Financial Report:

Account balances \$9,739.34, of which \$4,113.30 was ½ pipe donations, turned over to other community projects. (All donors who wished to be reimbursed, have been.) Projects for these funds, and part of KRRA's \$4.084.32, will be discussed at the AGM (more below, see Item 5.5). KRRA will keep a portion of our funds, \$2000, as a slush fund.

There are many financial members whose memberships need renewing before the AGM; Kathy will email a reminder.

Expenditures requiring approval:

Rocketspark website platform \$321.20 Penguin signs \$1541.72

Financial report accepted and expenditure approved, moved: Kathy seconded: Carrie Passed

5. Items for Discussion:

5.1 BP meeting with Scott Simpson & Cameron Fleming

The purpose of the meeting was to flag to Scott Simpson the Opito, Otama, and Kuaotunu Ratepayers' Associations' intention to pursue a sub-peninsula biosphere, and the need for such an entity to be mandated by central government. Scott Simpson needs clear bullet points to take to the government. His suggestion was that "biosphere" isn't well-known enough as a concept and that we re-name it (Alastair disagrees: "biosphere reserve" is an internationally-recognised designation, often administrated by UNESCO.) Opito and Otama want it made very clear they do NOT want another mammoth subdivision; however *We want to retain the integrity and character of our small coastal communities* might be a less contentious way of putting it.

It's important to get the large landowners on board: Sue Edens suggests an informal coffee meeting with such (she is in support of the Four Pillars of the Biosphere*). Brent will organise meeting(s) - ideally before the AGM. Brent also to ask Hadley Dryden (Destination Coromandel) about an economic-stimulus case for Dark Skies designation.

5.2 Mercury Bay North Chairs Meeting

The main takeaway was that the <u>footpath</u> west of the boat ramp has been removed from the 2021 district plan. Grrr. The TCDC made an agreement with NZTA to each do a part of the footpath; NZTA has done their bit. The Matarangi R & R Association is also very keen for the footpath to be returned to the 2021 agenda; we will both continue to make noise about it.

<u>Traffic calming</u>: the response from Council is that there's just no money. Brent will ask TCDC for temporary rubber speed-bump mats for the summer. Inexpensive community initiatives could include:

- moveable stuffed-toddler kids leaning against parked cars
- home-made plywood people cutouts
- bunting strung across the road the visual cues of bunting have a measurable effect on the psyche and slow drivers down. Bryce (MB Canvas) could be asked for offcuts of canvas, pvc? The kindy could be asked to decorate or make the bunting? Cheap, easy, effective.

*The Four Pillars: Invasive Flora- & Fauna-free; Clean waterways; Dark Sky Sanctuary; Retain integrity & character

5.3 AGM planning

- Sunday 23 August, 3pm, followed by wine & nibbles
- the Kindy can be asked to cater (as a bit of fundraising in lieu of the covid-cancelled Pumpkin Festival) for about 80 people. Kathy to ask kindy. We supply the wine. Luke lends glasses. The committee does clean-up afterwards.
- ➤ Kathy will advertise, 28 days out
- ➤ Kathy will email twice
 - first, soon, with a reminder to renew subs, submit nominations
 - second, after our next committee meeting, with update on funds projects ideas
 - Lise, Caro, Kate, will help with planning admin for the meeting as necessary
- > Courtney Linnecar & Danny Bay have both been nominated; Craig won't stand again

5.4 Dark Skies update

Covered in Matters Arising, above

5.5 Use of $\frac{1}{2}$ -pipe donation and KRRA funds

We have approximately \$6000 to spend on community projects. Ideas:

- Dark Skies signage/video
- donation to Kindy
- Rings Beach Wetland Group track signage (they would be most grateful; and Matarangi donates generously every year...)
- a new youth initiative but what?
- traffic-calming project (see above, item 6.2)
- large community festival event(s) but H&S compliance would be prohibitive smaller one-off festival
 - sausage sizzle
 - dark-sky night
 - bonfire night

We will seek other ideas from the community before the AGM, for discussion at the meeting. We need to clarify our objective for this item at the AGM: discussion? Making a shortlist? Voting on specific projects? (NB this would require financial members - ie voters - to be easily identified.)

5.6 Dune Care Group Update

Carrie didn't have very many email responses to the working-bee call, only a couple of families; but since then Mark Bunyan has been enthusiastically rounding up Luke's Kitchen staff and others to join in; there will probably be a decent turn-out on Saturday 1 August. There will be a sausage sizzle - Luke has some sausages to donate. KRRA committee members are encouraged to attend!

5.7 Rings Beach Wetlands Group update

The group participated in Project Kiwi's Kiwi Call Survey for the first time, after observing bird footprints, scat, and signs of feeding in tree stumps; and are thrilled to report: on the Friday

night, 5 male calls, and on the Saturday, 4 male calls and 2 female. It is hoped these represent breeding pairs. There has been regional and national news coverage, including RNZ.

5.8 Council's draft Open Spaces Strategy

TCDC no longer finds it financially viable to maintain local village halls and is drafting a policy to reflect this change. Kuaotunu Hall is very well organised and funds itself; however a general policy may nevertheless have negative affects on our hall. Other "community open spaces" are referred to in the strategy but not specifically, or with specific intention. Kathy to forward the email to Brent. Brent to read & ask Allan Tiplady if there's anything Kuaotunu needs to be worried about.

6.Any other business:

8.Meeting closed: 8pm **Next meeting:** Thursday 13 August. Luke says the Blue House is always available (and it's warm!)

ACTION SUMMARY

who	what	done?
Alastair	 create Dark Skies timeline, first priority being Council adoption of lighting-management plan speak briefly at the AGM on the spat farm appeal 	
Luke	talk to Josh K re Dark Skies video	
Kate	post in KT Katchup re tree felling	
Carrie	speak at Reserve Management drop-in session	
Brent	 reply to KEA organise coffee meeting with owners of large land ask Hadley D re economic stimulus case for Dark Skies ask TCDC for temporary rubber speed bump mats ask Allan T re open spaces speak - briefly! - at agm re spat farm appeal 	
Kathy	 email re membership renewal send 2 emails re AGM: one now, one after next committee meeting ask kindy re agm catering let Caro & Kate know how we can help organise agm forward open spaces email to Brent 	
everyone	 think on youth project possibilities attend Dune Day, 1 August 8am 	

Watching brief:

- helicopter landing pad
- Civil Defence Community Defense Response Plan
- Aquaculture development plan
- Council's Long Term Plan capital expenditure