

Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association
Minutes of Committee Meeting
held at the Blue House, Blackjack Rd
24 September 2020

Committee members Brent Page, Chair; Kathy Speirs, Treasurer; Kate Nielsen, Minutes Secretary; Carrie Parker, Correspondence Secretary; Luke Reilly, Carolyn Gibbs, Alastair Brickell, Bruce Pilkington, Courtney Linnecar, Danny Bay

Meeting opened: 6:05

Present: Brent, Kate, Carrie, Luke, Carloyn, Alastair, Bruce, Courtney, Danny

Public: --

Apologies: Kathy

1. Public input --

2. Minutes: Minutes of the previous committee meeting, held 13 August 2020, accepted as a true and accurate record. **moved:** Carolyn **seconded:** Alastair **Passed**
Minutes of the special post-non-AGM meeting, held 27 August, accepted as a true and accurate record. **moved:** Brent **seconded:** Bruce **Passed**

Matters arising from the 13 August minutes: Running through the action plan:

Bruce FENZ says rubber speed mats might theoretically hinder appliances getting speed up to ascend Blackjack Hill; in reality this won't be an issue.

Brent

NZTA is undertaking a nationwide review of State Highway hotspots and has identified Kuaotunu as one. NZTA is also changing its rules & criteria for speed limits. We need to keep being the squeaky wheel (see also item 5.4 below). **Brent to (continue to) follow up with NZTA.**

Meeting with Council re IDA lighting plan - see item 5.3 below.

James Muir water-quality photo - done.

Carrie

police email circulated & added to dropbox. Dune signs done - however Carolyn suggests more signs at "Gordie's Reserve" (near Davis Rd) **Carolyn to show Carrie where - Carrie to request signs from Tania.**

Dark skies meeting - see 5.3.

Kathy AGM cancellation notices - done. Dark Skies - see 5.3

Alastair Dark Skies - see 5.3 below

Matters arising from 27 August minutes: running through the action plan:

Kathy Courtney & Danny have been invited to dropbox

Courtney has set up firm links between kindy & KRRRA; food-forest NewsLetter item done.

Brent James Muir photo done.

Carrie Dune Care NL item done

Carolyn KCERT item will be in a future NL

3. Correspondence:

Correspondence is in the Dropbox. Highlights: some positive feedback regarding the committee's ongoing work, and the AGM cancellation. And an invitation from the Informer to attend an evening with Nigel Latta at the Whitianga Town Hall, proceeds to the Whitianga Skate Park. **Carrie to forward to Carolyn, Carolyn to accept on behalf of KRRA**

Correspondence accepted, moved: Caro **seconded:** Alastair

Passed

Matters arising from the correspondence: --

4. Financial Report:

Forwarded by Kathy, summarised by Kate. \$10,526.38 in the bank, including \$1,541.72 held over, awaiting the penguin-sign invoice; and over \$4000 in former half-pipe donations. The committee, when considering how to distribute these funds (see 5.7 below), needs also to consider maintaining a reserve account, or "fighting fund". There are no expenditures requiring approval.

Other points:

- Kathy's subs-reminder email generated 30 new members; thanks also to Bruce for encouraging 5 other campground shareholders to sign up.
- next year, Rocketspark's pricing for not-for-profit enterprises will be \$207 (down from \$321).
- our last Newsletter had an open rate of 67% - pretty good

Number of current members: 164

Financial report accepted and expenditure approved, moved: Brent **seconded:** Carrie

Passed

5. Items for Discussion:**5.1 Coastal Panel**

Carrie has attended the first Shoreline Management Plan meeting for the Mercury Bay Zone (Whangapoua to Tairua). She is registered as a representative of KRRA, and will liaise with Otama & Opito. The purpose of this group is to make *plans for future risks* to the shoreline, not to debate current actions at Brophy's Beach or climate change. Meetings are run by a TCDC staff member, with a consulting firm taking a strong leadership role. The outline of the meetings over the next year runs thusly:

1. First meeting, an orientation
2. Site visits - some hot-spots will be visited (including Kuaotunu, Pito-one Stream) to show examples of different kinds of risks (eg inundation, slips, tsunami...)
3. Inventory all coastal hazards, defining the value of assets at risk
4. Determine the acceptability of risks (eg some areas may be left alone for nature to take its course, some areas may need remediation)
5. Decide what to do where

Public consultation will occur in the new year.

The committee hugely appreciates Carrie taking this on!

5.2 Blackjack Wilding Pine Felling

The Kuaotunu Peninsula Trust has felled both sides of the Blackjack road up to the summit, and one side going down to Otama, so the project is very visible now. Most feedback from the public has been supportive. A regeneration plan for slip areas (*not* caused by the felling) is needed.

Until now the Trust has been operating with private funding; however Kristine Pickford, with input from Carrie, has recently lodged a funding application with the National Wilding Conifer Association (which has received funds from MPI, and is spending them for the first time in the Waikato/Coromandel). If successful this funding will support a 3-year program, tasked by WRC, involving training opportunities and employment.

5.3 Dark Skies

Dark Skies Sanctuary accreditation turns out to be a lot more work than expected! The Niue project took 2 people 12-14 weeks full time to achieve. Alastair drove around Kuaotunu, Kuaotunu West, Rings Beach, Otama and Opito with Richard and Gendie Sommerville Ryan (who were responsible for most of the work on the Great Barrier and Niue applications to IDA) on a weekend when most baches were occupied: virtually 90% are non-compliant with IDA requirements - there will need to be a lot more investment from householders than previously thought. Alastair is currently working on a properties & buildings inventory from Google Maps (Otama, KT, KTWest, and Rings have approx 400 properties, with approx 800 buildings; Opito hasn't been counted yet). When this list is complete, Alastair will go to Dark Sky Places Program Manager Adam Dalton to ask for advice, given that the Stewart Island Sanctuary process excluded private lights from their inventory.

A lower-level accreditation, Dark Skies Community, wouldn't need an inventory of compliant lights, but must commit to compliance within 10 years. Another possible option for us is to establish our own non-IDA version, eg. a "Kuaotunu Night Sky Community" or similar (which doesn't require commitment to compliance). This would be easier, and could act as a stepping stone to higher accreditation. The ultimate goal is to protect our sky; the pathway there isn't material, but the essential step is to **get TCDC to enact lighting restrictions for our area as soon as possible** and eventually get this extended to the whole peninsula, concurrent with extensive community education.

Alastair has met with Bruce Baker, TCDC Senior Policy Manager; and Council seems supportive and is looking at legislation other District Councils have enacted to comply with IDA requirements. Initial thoughts suggest that a possible pathway could be a "Special Purpose Provision" within the District Plan which would require a plan change necessitating a full public consultation and notification process with costing for this starting at around \$50,000.

Alastair advised Bruce that the latest area to apply to the IDA for Sanctuary status (South Wairapa) has received \$100,000 from the Provincial Growth Fund; perhaps TCDC could look at this funding option. South Wairapa District Council has already switched most of its street lights

to warm white (3000K or lower) to comply with IDA requirements and it is hoped that NZTA will do the same as they have in other areas seeking dark sky status.

5.4 Footpath

Courtney has been approached by some local families wanting to put together a register of numbers of people who walk along the road between Cemetery Lane and the village (and those who don't because it's too dangerous), and photos, to add to the pile of submissions to TCDC. KRRRA will continue advocating the completion of the footpath; this however should not prevent community initiatives from going ahead.

5.5 Traffic-calming

There was minimal feedback on this after the recent Newsletter. A request-for-service has been lodged with TCDC for temporary rubber speed bumps for the summer; they were waiting for input from Emergency Services. FENZ has no problem (see matters arising from the minutes), and St John's have no problem. **Brent to follow up with Heather Bruce.**
See also 5.7, below.

5.6 Public Meeting

Date set for Sunday 24 January. Notice of this to go in the next Newsletter.

Agenda to be finally drafted at the next meeting (4 Nov, as that will be the last of the year). The committee should use the refreshed Community Plan as the template: by giving updates on and inviting discussion about the top items from the CP, we are reinforcing it and to a certain extent informally reviewing it. To consider:

- Dark Skies/Biosphere
- Dune Care
- Traffic calming
- Heron Trust meeting with WRC? Steps towards wetlands?
- Shoreline Management Plan
- distribution of KRRRA funds (see below)

5.7 Distribution of KRRRA funds

The committee's shortlist, to put to a vote at the Public Meeting:

- Dark Skies (public education: video, flyers)
- Rings Beach track donation
- historical photo book project
- traffic calming
 - pay for a draft concept plan (**Brent to ask Ange Gregory**) (tsunami escape route, logging truck access need to be considered)
 - commission artwork (tin surfboard sculptures, for example)
 - once a concept plan is done, we can take it to the Council and say, Our community wants this.

5.8 Newsletter

Items to be suggested at the next meeting.

5.9 Noticeboard

Alastair sought guidance from the committee regarding a Kamag notice giving information about prospecting. Should it be posted? Is it political? Anti-mining was at the top of the community's priorities in the CP refresh. Is it the same as posting Dark Skies or Dune Care information? Should we just be posting about events, not ongoing advocacy groups?

Summary of Noticeboard discussions from 2 July 2020 minutes:

"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."

After much discussion Alastair was advised to post the notice for a month. If another is submitted, Kamag can be directed to Brent.

6. Any other business:

Bruce: the Fire Brigade asks if KRRA will fund two new Epipens (the two we funded last year have expired). The committee agrees. **moved: Brent seconded: Courtney passed**

Meeting closed: 8:15

Next meeting: 4 November (the last for 2020)

ACTION SUMMARY

who	what	done?
Brent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● keep on at NZTA re speed limit review ● follow up with Heather B re speed mats ● ask Ange Gregory re traffic-calming concept plan 	
Carrie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ask Tania for more dune-protection signs for Gordie's Reserve ● forward Nigel Latta invitation to Caro 	
Luke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● tell Hirini about running cistern in Blackjack toilet 	
Carolyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● accept Nigel Latta invitation ● show Carrie where more Dunes signs are needed 	
Alastair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● complete properties survey ● liaise with Adam Dalton, IDA, regarding options for our situation 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 	

Watching brief:

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