

Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc. held 10.00 am Sunday 24th May 2020 by Video Conference (Zoom)

Present:

Chairman: Peter Seers
Treasurer: Susan Jelicich
Secretary: Heather Mackay

Attending:

33 Residents, Ratepayers and MERRA committee members

Chairman Peter Seers welcomed all to the meeting and went through the housekeeping required for a meeting by video conference. Apologies as received and from the meeting.

Apologies:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anna & Rob Friend | David Legg & Jude Nye | Colin & Glenda Hopkins |
| Kevin & Rita Riley | Nick and Jan Burberry -King | Tija Urmonas |
| Michelle & Simon Revell | Kathryn & Jeremy Chase | Den & Suzanne Dale |
| Ken & Fiona Knight | Phillipa Walker | Fleur & Tony Davies |
| Dennis Willers & Derek Wright | Alex & Katie Moroney | Tony Overton & Ali Skinner |
| Jan & Brian Fanning | Liz Smythe | Catherine Larsen |
| Mike & Andrea Kelly | Jon & Linda Trainor | Michael Drewer |
| Fraser & Linda McFarlane | Craig & Taina Hill | Paul & Rosalind Stancich |

Minutes of the 50th AGM 2019.

The Chair moved that the minutes of the 2019 AGM posted on the website (www.scottslanding.org) were a true and accurate record of the meeting. Peter Seers / Susan Jelicich Carried

Chairperson's Report: Peter Seers

Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association Chairpersons report for the year ended 31st March 2020

INTRODUCTION

This has been an unusual and testing year.

Over the past year MERRA Committee have worked to keep our community well informed and we expect this will be achieved through our Website and communications through our Neighbourhood Support network.

Your Executive meet 2 monthly to review progress and plan for future events.

MERRA ran a number of very successful regular annual events including our clean-up day, The annual Merra BBQ, New Residents morning tea and we again supported the annual Mahurangi Regatta. We plan to continue these in the coming year.

It is disappointing that we are not able to meet as in previous years to enjoy the company of our neighbours over this unique period.

I welcome all our new residents into our hidden paradise.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

Mahurangi Presbyterian Cemetery

MERRA has representation on the trust that owns the cemetery and as such we have an interest and a voice there. We plan to have our first Heritage Trail and Seat located at the cemetery which can be our trial for residents opinion.

Local Historical (Walking) Trail and Seating in Public Spaces

This is a new MERRA initiative signalled in our last years AGM.

MERRA have elected to establish an historical walking trail with seating in public places over the coming year, similar to previous projects like the Scotts Landing sign and the Bus Shelter / notice board upgrade of previous years. We expect to establish the first "test" seat by spring at the historic cemetery up the upgraded steps opposite the macadamia nut farm.

We have already drafted the first of the historical commentaries that will go online.

The idea is that visitors to each bench can access the relevant historical commentary on their mobile device (through QR code) and read about the history of the area as it relates to the particular view in front of them.

Thanks to Stuart Windross and David Legg for managing this project with Jude Nye and Alan Seelye who have completed the design of these bench seats.

These will echo both the Scotts Landing sign and the bus shelter by incorporating corten steel ends featuring the distinctive 'telltale' logo. We are procuring the materials for each bench and will advise members once the first location is completed and we will invite your feedback regarding other possible locations through the website and newsletter.

Animal Pest Control

MERRA's efforts to control animal pests in the past year have moved us closer to our goal of being predator free by 2022.

Our mustelid trapping programme started in January 2019 and saw a rapid decline in populations to the point where from November 2019 no mustelids were being trapped.

Also our rat poisoning programme saw those populations decline - evidenced by a reduction in bait uptake in the bait stations around the peninsular.

The positive of this is that many of you have noticed a significant increase in the bird populations, particularly ground based birds like Quail.

The negative is that populations of mice and rabbits, who are preyed on by mustelids and rats are on the rise. Possums are also rare although several have been trapped in the year and there are ongoing reports of possum activity.

While not in the year being reported, it is worth mentioning that during the COVID-19 lockdown, mustelid populations have started to refresh with several sightings and trappings occurring, illustrating how important and ongoing this work is to protect the local flora and fauna.

MERRA thanks and acknowledges the work of Mark Croft and his volunteers who tirelessly manage bait stations and doc200 traps for the community.

MERRA acknowledge the support of Auckland Council who provided baits during the year.

If you want to join the effort to make our part of paradise animal pest free, contact us via the MERRA website. A little effort by everyone is all it takes.

Plant Pest Control

The last year saw a number of projects undertaken on Council Reserves, public spaces and walkways. We welcome Larissa Cherrie our resident Auckland Council Park Ranger. Larissa (like her predecessor Beckie Trigg) has supported our clearing of plant pests, mainly escapees from residential gardens, e.g. Jasmin, Agapanthus, Ginger and Pampas Grasses.

We are continually revegetating with native plants, spraying and maintenance.

We remind Scott's Landing residents the importance of all of us doing our bit to control plant pests on our own properties and surrounding areas like reserves and berms.

MERRA can offer advice, printed material and a small quantity of chemical supplied curtesy of the Auckland Council to assist to ultimately making Scott's Landing environment plant pest free.

Again, we are always looking for good keen people to help even if only from time to time to make this goal a reality and target a working session with the Ranger and volunteers the last Friday of each month. Again, Please contact us through the website.

We acknowledge the help, support and guidance from both Larissa Cherrie and the Auckland Council Parks Department. And a big thank you to all our volunteers who help with these projects.

Roading and Walkways

MERRA has been in recent contact with Auckland Transport on four matters with outcomes as follows:

1. Slip on Ridge Road above Baileys Cottage driveway.

AT now has engineering design and plans in place but its plans have been further delayed as they are now required to go through a full resource consent process.

This could add a further frustrating 12 months to the process while they work through the process of giving themselves consent ... this will involve iwi consultation and commissioning an Assessment of Environmental Effects.

MERRA will continue to pursue the matter with AT.

MERRA understands that the last section of Ridge Road will be sealed as part of this work, along with the carpark.

2. Clearing cliff-side drains above this slip to avoid further damage. This request was made by both phone and email but is yet to be actioned.

3. Establishing a designated disability park near the jetty.

MERRA has made this request on the suggestion of a resident. It is likely to follow the sealing noted above.

And... 4. Re-contouring the new roadside drains cut on Ridge Rd just above Charles St.

Several residents have expressed concern about how the drains risk undercutting the road and have left no place for walkers to avoid traffic on the tricky corner.

This request was made by both phone and email but is yet to be actioned.

Waste by Rail

MERRA express their appreciation to Stuart Windross and Barry Mein for their tireless efforts to complete the work required to lodge our substantial submission to Council now that Waste Management has applied for resource consent for its new Regional Landfill in the Dome Valley.

MERRA's 14 page submission prepared by Stuart and Barry includes 6 detailed Appendices. We I am sure you will find powerful reading.

It supports other groups who will submit with concern about the potential ecological impacts of the landfill

It questions the traffic assessment contained in the application. That assessment concludes that an extra 740+ vehicles a day along SH1 and through the Dome Valley (which is a 60% increase in heavy vehicles) will have "no more than minor" effect.

It makes a strong case that Auckland's waste should be transported by rail not road to the landfill if it is approved.

MERRA's case references the further \$109m upgrading of the rail line announced in January, the prospect of a 65% reduction in fuel burn and CO2 emissions, and a 95% reduction in accident risk.

It notes that rail passes within 2km of the site and underpins its case with reference to both council and government policies that seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, road fatalities and traffic congestion.

We invite you all to read the document which is posted on the MERRA website. We also invite you to lodge a submissions in support of MERRA's case.

The instructions for doing so are also on our website.

Broadband:

Our request to provide an interim service upgrade for residents north of 103 Ridge Rd (by connecting to the Charles St cabinet like everyone else) has been declined again due to the costs involved in upgrading the cabinet.

MERRA has sought a review of that decision - and this is being considered - again.

If that fails we are scheduled to get fibre to the door commencing January 2021. The first connections should be available within a couple of months of starting. This is a lot better than waiting until previously notified - Dec 2022. Thanks to Stuart Windross for his persistence with this project.

Neighbourhood Support and Community Response Group

My personal thanks to Anna Friend who has managed the role of Neighbourhood Support Co-Ordinator until recently, also to the wonderful group of dedicated Street Coordinators managing the MERRA communication tree and keeping all our residents in contact with each other.

I have temporarily merged and managed the two roles of Neighbourhood Support and Community Response Groups through the Pandemic, and I am very pleased to announce that Clarissa Gould-Thorpe has confirmed she will accept nomination to our committee executive to take on the role of managing the Neighbourhood Support network. Anna has agreed to assist Clarissa in her integration to this role.

It has been noticeable that during the current 'Pandemic emergency' there has been no contact nor support from Auckland Emergency Management so we have been largely left to our own devices.

Communication channels are open and tested, and hopefully our community has felt well guided and included.

Special thanks go to Jan Fanning and Sandra Wilson for their idea and provision of hand made special cloth face masks which were distributed to people in need around the community during lockdown. Thanks Jan and Sandra.

During the year we held a successful personalised First Aid training event for the AED (Defibrillator) which is located at the Charles St noticeboard, and this was funded from council and the sale of Emergency Horns.

Fire Team

The Fire team meet regularly and test their skills at putting out fires. They have been tested with real fires so their training and practice is protecting us all... Thanks Team.

Website

The website continues to be a source of information for residents and visitors of matters concerning the peninsular, plus upcoming and recently staged events. There is also a treasure trove of information relating to the history of Scotts Landing, updated again this year as new information came to hand.

MERRA Committee member profiles have been added to the website.

Pandemic articles were added to ensure that information for residents was available in one location. I recommend saving the shortcut link to our website as it iOS constantly updated.

New Events

Fishing Competition

The inaugural MERRA Scotts Landing Fishing Competition was delayed due to the Covid lockdown,

however during the Level 3 Lockdown an informal and very unofficial competition was run through the “Beer O’Clock” group and was entirely land based and fully Lockdown compliant.

Entry was by donation and the prize = the winners name engraved on the trophy. Please watch the Website for the declaration of the winner (not yet released). The trophy is well worth the effort of winning - check the website

We will update all residents on the official inaugural MERRA Fishing competition later in the year.

Photo competition

During the lockdown level 3, a photo competition was born from the need for the fishers to photograph their catch.

This extended into a wonderful community photo fun event which we intend to continue over the coming years, and possibly extend to include a bottled produce swap. Please see the website for the photos. We hope to see this as another annual event.

Annual Events

Please review our Website to keep informed of our upcoming events.

Thank you

To conclude my report I wish to thank the supreme efforts of our executive committee and our secondees who have accomplished the above for our community. Thanks also to you, our community for providing us with support and feedback. And a special thanks to our Neighbourhood Support team, who have helped us all feel well connected and supported throughout the last few months.

Thanks Team Scotts Landing!

The Chairman asked the Treasurer Susan Jelich to present the audited financial accounts.

Financial Report

MAHURANGI EAST RESIDENT AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Financial Report for the year ended 31 March 2020

| Income | | 2020 | 2019 |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Donations | 1094 | 1010 |
| | Interest | 125 | 158 |
| | Subscriptions | 1068 | 1054 |
| | Sundry/Sales - Events | 367 | 169 |
| | Sponsorship | 100 | 300 |
| | | 2754 | 2691 |
| Expenditure | | | |
| | Printing/Stationery | 11 | |
| | Barbecue / Catering | 706 | 704 |
| | Depreciation | 316 | 240 |
| | Fire Trailer Maintenance | | 63 |
| | Maintenance | 40 | |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------|--------------|
| | Pest Control | | 70 |
| | Subscriptions | 165 | 176 |
| | Sundry Expenses | 20 | 68 |
| | Website | 299 | 251 |
| | | 1558 | 1572 |
| | | | |
| | Operating Profit | 1149 | 932 |
| | Council and Community Grant | 250 | 650 |
| | Net Profit | 1399 | 1582 |
| | | | |
| Balance Sheet | | | |
| | Value of MERRA as at March 31st | 13487 | 11905 |
| | Current Year Earnings | 1399 | 1582 |
| | New Value | 14886 | 13487 |
| | | | |
| | Represented By | | |
| | Bank Accounts | 10478 | 8633 |
| | Fixed Assets | 4215 | 4531 |
| | Less prepay Website Renewal | 356 | 474 |
| | Total Assets | 15048 | 13638 |
| | Liabilities – 2019 Subs / Bus Shelter Funds | 162 | 151 |
| | Net Equity of MERRA | 14886 | 13487 |

Auditors Report

REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF MERRA

I have completed my Annual Review of the Accounting Records of MERRA for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Once again, my congratulations on the detail and accuracy of the Accounting.

The consistency of the financial results for the year were impressive.

The Xero Accounting system is a perfect tool for recording all transactions. The online records linked to the Bank Account makes my role straight-forward.

I have no hesitation in confirming the accuracy of the Financial Statements.

Roger Harvey

14 May 2020

Subscriptions 2020/2021

MERRA Treasurer Susan Jelich recommended that the current subscription (\$12) be retained.

Peter Seers/ Roger Harvey

Carried

Accept Financial Report

Peter Seers /Stuart Windross

Carried

Election of Officers

Nominations matched available positions the following being elected with affirmation for 2020/2021 with ability to co-opt as required.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Chairperson | Peter Seers |
| Honorary Treasurer | Susan Jelichich |
| Honorary Secretary | Heather Mackay |

MERRA Executive Committee

Mark Croft

Stuart Windross

Lindsay Crocker

David Legg

Chris Russell

Clarissa Gould-Thorpe

Colin Harvey

General Business

Bill Townson advised the meeting that there had been a couple of fire incidents recently and suggested that residents take care and have a printed list of the fire team close at hand so that they can quickly call them for local assistance. One was spontaneous combustion in a pile of garden waste and the second in the 'hedge' fence close to the Scotts Landing sign which also smouldered and took 2 visits from the fire service to completely put out.

Roger Harvey suggested that MERRA publish to residents and ratepayers the phone no. for the new Emergency Medical Service in Warkworth 09 425 8585

It was suggested to the meeting that we publish a list of 'good' suppliers/ traders to the community.

Peter Seers advised the meeting that Scott House has been closed for public events because of its' earthquake rating and will not reopen until earthquake strengthening has been completed. As MERRA frequently use this building a sub-committee has been formed to keep abreast of developments.

Peter Seers advised that Fergusson House which is the Community Response Groups (CRG) operations base has been tenanted by Council to the new local Ranger. CRG will continue to work with Council to arrange an alternative location.

Mark Croft thanked the Chairman for his supreme effort, leadership, and support as some out of the ordinary challenges have presented themselves this year on behalf of the committee and residents and ratepayers, thoroughly approved by acclamation.

The meeting closed at 10.41 am