

White Sands Hall Society and Crime Watch Meeting
April 20, 2021
Minutes

Present:

Vice President Geri Horne, Treasurer Heather Zyerfeld, Treasurer Judy Peelar

Directors: Leanne Andrekson, Tamara Dawson, Vicky Sanchuck, Chery VanDusen

Village Council: Lorne Thurston

Members at large: Lois Robinson, Larry Robinson, Cathy Sommerville, Sue Showers, Dale Kitcher, Jim Marke, Karla MacNeil, Tish Holliday, Leigh Rairdan, Heidi Anderson

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Vice President Geri Horne.

2. Meeting Guidelines: As this is the first meeting via Zoom, Cheryl VanDusen, Director, outlined meeting guidelines as pertained to sound, voting, and being recognized to ask questions. She also read out our Procedural Agreement as it pertains to meeting protocol.

3. Quorum: Number of members present totalled 18, therefore a quorum.

4. Additions/Changes to Agenda: Geri Horne asked for additions or changes to Agenda. Hearing none, Geri Horne made the motion to accept the agenda as presented. Carried.

5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: The last general meeting of the Hall Society & Crime Watch was the Annual Meeting of June 13, 2020. Minutes were distributed with notice of this meeting. Secretary Judy Peelar as for a motion to accept the minutes as printed and distributed. Tamara Dawson made the motion. Judy Peelar asked is there were any corrections or changes to the minutes. Hearing none, the motion was seconded by Heather Zyerfeld. Carried.

6. The Financial Report for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2021 was presented by Treasurer Heather Zyerfeld. She reported that last year's books have been reviewed by Sue Showers (member at large) and Vicky Sanchuck (board member) as per our Bylaws. Records will now be submitted to Corporate Registry per the Societies Act. Our bank balance is currently \$13,405 and we have no outstanding bills. Motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by Cheryl VanDusen, seconded by Tamara Dawson. Carried.

7. a. Rural Crime Watch – The Presidents Report was presented by Dale Kitcher, Director of Crime Watch. He announced that Corinne Phelan has resigned her position of President of our Crime Watch association. He thanked her for her volunteer role in this position since 2015. New contact information and enrollment forms for White Sands Crime Watch can be found on the White Sands website: whitesands.ab.ca

7.b. Report on the Alberta Rural Crime Watch AGM

Dale Kitcher attended the Annual Meeting and provided highlights of the meeting:

- Alberta Rural Crime Watch is working with the RCMP and Fish & Wildlife. This past year has seen increases in phone scams and break & enters. They encourage the public to report suspicious vehicles and

activities. They are working on a RAPID response program in rural areas and have enlisted the help of Fish & Wildlife officers who now have the authority to apprehend.

- Rural Crime is a top priority within the province. Programs such as Citizens on Patrol, Wise Owl (phone scams) and Light It – Lock It – Or Lose It are being encouraged. Thieves will come back if they are successful the first time.
- The courts are now allowing victim impact statements. For example, you see your neighbour doing something illegal. You can go to court and state the effect this has on you and your community.
- They also had stats on crime in rural communities. Interesting to note for communities in our immediate area, in relation to Stettler and Camrose, Bashaw has a higher level of crime.
- 65% of crime is unreported. Crime watch is working on educating and encouraging people to report suspicious or criminal behaviour.

Dale then provided recommendations that the Village of White Sands could implement:

- Establish a crime watch contact who would then report to the RCMP
- Increase resident communications
- Create a functional Crime Watch Program and build a relationship with Rochon's Crime Watch community to share incidents and problem-solving solutions.
- Increase the signage in our community to enforce the fact that we have a crime watch program and add message to our electronic sign.
- Light It – Lock It – Or Lose It – communicate how important this is and encourage residents not to leave valuables outside, to lock doors, not to leave keys in obvious places, etc. Start an education & communication program on crime reduction strategies.
- In the shop, hall and bottle shed areas – have a further discussion on what can be done to safeguard these areas that seem to be hit regularly. E.g. Cameras, lighting, citizens on patrol

The Crime Watch Board will discuss these ideas and make a proposal to the Village Council.

Mayor Lorne Thurston reported on security cameras for the Village. The Village is working with a third-party company. Multiple cameras will be installed at both at the Hall/Bottle Shed/Dumpster area and the Water Fill Station. The County of Stettler will assist with cost of cameras at the Fill Station as it is their property and it adds to the security of both the water and the building. The Shirley McLellan Water Commission will collect the date on the cameras at the Fill Station and we can access those at any time as needed. Cost for 4 cameras at the Hall cameras is \$10,000. Cost for 2 cameras at the Water Fill Station is \$5000.

Old & Unfinished Business:

8. a) & b) Approval of Expense for Tent Enclosure at Jack's Pond. Judy Peelar reported that because of COVID meeting restrictions, we were unable to hold our regular Hall Society meetings in October and December of last year. In lieu of that, the Hall Society Board held an Extraordinary Meeting on November 8, 2020 at which time we discussed the placement of a structure at Jack's Pond for people to gather.

Jack's Pond has become a fairly active location in the winter months – skating, curling, bon fires and general gatherings. Last year Council added a toboggan hill and installed power with LED lighting and plug ins. The

suggestion was made that we invest in a large tent and heater to remain in place throughout the winter months. Anyone using the Pond facilities could then have shelter to warm up. Or we could use it for social functions like pot lucks for the winter solstice or curling bonspiel.

Councillor Bill Sanchuck investigated tent options. One option would be to have an engineered structure which would be more permanent and stronger. The cost would be up to \$25,000. The other option would be a heavy canvas tent – either new or used – measuring 20 feet x 32 feet. The cost would be \$5000-\$6000. There are other options in between these costs for example a quonset like structure at various prices.

Council approached the Hall Society about contributing to the cost of the structure and heater. As we have not been able to spend our money on social events this past year and we do have the money, the Hall Society agreed that this investment would benefit the entire community. At the end of 2020 we had over \$10,000 in the bank.

The enclosure has not yet been purchased. Due to COVID and restrictions on gatherings, Village Council decided to defer the purchase until we could actually put it to use. Over the winter, Councillor Sanchuck explored other options of a more permanent nature, rather than a tent.

The motion was made at the November meeting that the Hall Society contribute \$5000 towards the cost of the tent and heater. We now need ratification of that motion. It was moved by Heather Zerveld that the Hall Society contribute \$5000 to the Village for the purchase of a shelter/enclosure for Jack's Pond. Seconded by Leanne Andrekson. Discussion on this matter included the following comments:

- Would the shelter remain up all year or just in the winter? Response: Council has not made a decision on this yet. Parking and traffic have to be considered due to the playground also located at this site. This may be an issue in the summer months.
- If it is a permanent structure – would there be rental opportunities as with the hall? Often the Hall is not available and this would provide another venue for social events or rentals.
- Good idea for the winter, but not summer.
- What is the purpose? Is there not already a structure on sight? Response: The shed on site is small and is equipped for skaters to sit and take off their boots and put on their skates. It is not large enough for any type of gathering. The purpose of a larger structure is for example to host a pot luck supper for the winter solstice or curling events. It also gives us another venue besides the Hall.
- It is a great location for winter functions and has become quite a gathering place. But as there is a fire pit are we concerned about liability – with the hay bales and children around?
- The money should be used for other projects in the community – example expansion of the existing hall.
- Should we be spending money on more security due to the number of break ins of late?
- Concerned about the amount of partying that goes on til 2:00 a.m. and don't know if we should encourage this by adding more opportunities to the site.
- Lake life is about socializing and if they aren't partying at Jack's Pond, they will be at partying somewhere else.

Mayor Lorne Thurston advised that because this is a major expense and because the location will have an impact on existing and neighboring residences, Council will be putting out a questionnaire seeking feedback on this purchase. Considerations have to be given to traffic and noise and the fact that there is a playground there and the danger of more vehicular traffic going by the playground. A permanent structure versus a

tent that we put up and take down seasonally is also a consideration. Council will wait for public feedback before pursuing a purchase.

Judy Peelar stated that the \$5000 is still in the Hall Society's account and has just been set aside until Council makes a decision on a structure for Jack's Pond. We have more income coming in again this year and continually look for ways to re-invest in our community. We will wait for Council's decision on a structure for Jack's Pond before donating the money.

The motion on the floor is to ratify the motion made at the November meeting to donate \$5000 towards a structure at Jack's Pond. All in favour: 11. Opposed: 4. Carried.

8. c. Defibrillator Update: Lorne Thurston provided a status update on the purchase and placement of a defibrillator within the Village. At the request of residents of White Sands and through the Hall Society's Board Meeting in November 2020, Lorne has been investigating the possibility of having a Defibrillator placed within White Sands for emergency use by residents. Lorne has talked to Alberta Health Services and EMS. The cost of the machine and creating a heated, insulated and power secured enclosure for it, is about \$3000. The machine has to be available to the public and with the recent break ins, accessibility and location are definitely of concern. The machine is however registered with Alberta Health and has a tracking mechanism on it. We hope to have the defibrillator installed in the short term and will notify residents when it is in place.

New Business:

9.a. Resignation of President Fraser Denton – Geri Horne advised that in November 2020 Fraser Denton submitted his resignation as President of the Hall Society, to be effective April 30, 2021. Due to the onset of health issues, he had to change the effective date to January 20th. We thank Fraser for his 7 years as President of the Hall Society and for the countless volunteer hours he has dedicated to our community.

9. b. Christmas Secret Santa and Donations – Cheryl VanDusen advised that last Christmas, because we could not have the Village Christmas Party, they created a Secret Santa program. 20 people participated, including children. Those who participated were able to meet some new people and it definitely enhanced the Christmas spirit. The toy drive and food donations were overwhelming successful with Tamara Dawson and Cheryl running 6 carloads of donations to the charities as well as cash donations of \$600. We thank everyone for their generosity and the recipients were more than grateful. Plans will be underway for next year and may include adopting a family. We will keep you posted.

9.c. 2021 Budget Approval – The proposed budget was distributed with the meeting notice. Heather Zyerveld, Treasurer, reviewed the categories. The question was asked if the revenue expectation is realistic. Heather stated that it is based on last year's revenue and we did have 2 break ins at the bottle shed. So given that and the fact that our population has increased in the Village, it is likely conservative. The question was asked if money could be spent towards the beaches as they require major attention. That is not a Hall Society matter, rather a Village matter. The motion was made by Heather Zyerveld for approval of the Budget as presented. Seconded by Leanne Andrekson. Carried.

9.d. T-Shirt Proposal – Geri Horne provided details of this proposal. A few years ago, we printed T-Shirts with a buffalo logo. We are now researching the idea of another T-Shirt and looking for support to move forward. Geri presented samples of the shirts and the new logo. The logo is in the upper corner of the shirt – a buffalo with the words "Summer Village of White Sands 1980" - the year of incorporation. Good quality shirts. Cost would

be \$15 to \$18 (XXL and larger) per shirt plus GST, with a minimum order of 12 shirts. Set up fee for the logo is \$50. For a minimum order of 12 – cost would be \$230-\$266 depending on sizes ordered. Suggesting we would sell the shirts at cost – approx. \$20 per shirt after set up costs. There was discussion on ordering only as demand comes in, advertising. No decision was made on what direction to proceed.

9.e. Electronic Sign –Tamara Dawson, Director provided an update on the sign. Many technical difficulties have finally been overcome and the sign has been up and running without incident for a couple months now. Thanks to the working group: Heather Zyerveld, Geri Horne, Cheryl VanDusen, Tamara Dawson and Bernie Feisst. They have established procedures, policy and scheduling for programming the sign. The purpose of the sign is for community announcements and community spirit. We are now ready to move to the new phase which is posting messages at request – anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, etc. Information on that will be rolled out in the next couple weeks.

Comments on the sign included:

- When the sun shines on it you cannot read it. Response: We recognize that not all colors are visible during the day. We do not have the option to program the sign differently in daylight or darkness. We will become more cognizant of the colors that work best.
- With the long weekend coming, should we make people aware of crime issues or preventative actions? Response: Dale Kitcher will work with the sign committee to come up with some messaging.
- Dale also mentioned using the sign as another means of warning that you are entering a Crime Watch community, or “smile, you’re on camera”. The sign committee will work that into their regular rotation of messages.

9.f. Elections – Judy Peelar advised that the Annual Meeting for the Hall Society and Crime Watch is coming up in June. Both boards have elections and are looking for people interested in any of the positions up for election:

Crime Watch has a 6-member Board and all positions are 1-year terms. Positions are:

President, Vice President, Secretary, 3 Directors

Hall Society Board consists of 4 Executive Members and 4 Directors. Each year, half of the positions are up for election. Positions up for re-election this year are:

President – 1 year term (as this is a mid-term vacancy)
Vice President – 2-year term
Secretary – 2-year term
Directors – 2 positions – 2-year terms

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the responsibilities of any of these positions, please contact any member of the Board, or email: whitesandshallssociety@gmail.com and someone will be in touch with you. We are always happy to have new people on board.

9.g. Photo album in the Hall. Judy Peelar spoke to this item. There is a photo album in the Community Hall with pictures of various social events in White Sands. No one seems to have ownership of it. It is something nice to have – memories of events in White Sands. We are wondering if anyone would like to take on this project -

either an electronic version that could be published on the website for all to view or a physical version that stays at the Hall for viewing during meetings or social gatherings. If someone wants to take it on, we would inform Residents who to contact and send photos to. Anyone interested can email: whitesandshallssociety@gmail.com

9.h. Donations of Benches and Picnic Table at Jack's Pond – Tamara Dawson thanked Len Spencer, Bobbi Jo and Steve Lockhart who donated material and labor to build a large table and 2 benches to remain at Jack's Pond. The work was done with no expectation of recognition or refund of expenses. The Hall Society has ordered plaques to be placed on the table and benches recognizing the donation. Thanks again to Len, Bobbi Jo and Steve.

9.i. Social Functions – planning and volunteers needed

Many of our social functions are in wait and see mode due to restrictions on gatherings. Here is the update on 2 events:

Parade and BB – July long weekend. Geri Horne advised that we have determined we will proceed with the Parade and will have to wait and see on the BBQ given social restrictions due to COVID. We will need someone to coordinate the parade. This involves determining the theme of the parade, the parade route, prizes for best floats, arranging judges. Anyone interested can email: whitesandshallssociety@gmail.com or speak to any member of the Hall Society Board.

Golf Tournament – July 24 – Pheasantback Golf Course – Heather Zyerveld advised she has made a tentative booking. At this time, we don't know if we would be able to hold the luncheon and awards presentation. This is really the major point behind the tournament as it allows for socializing and meeting new residents. If we cannot proceed with the social aspect, we will not hold the Tournament. However, we are always looking for volunteers to help with the tournament so if this is of interest to you, please reach out to Heather, or email the hall society.

10. Next meeting date will be the Annual Meeting, currently scheduled for Saturday, June 12, 2021.

11. Motion to adjourn was made by Vicky Sanchuck at 8:19 p.m.