

Minutes of a meeting of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on Wednesday 7 May 2008 commencing at 9.00am

1 PRESENT

Councillor GRP Webber - Chairperson

Members

S Mackinder (Landowner representative), JB Mylchreest (Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust), R Kelleher (Department of Conservation), R Smith (Parawera Marae), P Tairi (Maungatautari Marae), B Townend (Landowner representative)

Other

Project Manager-Heritage Development & Reserve Planning – T Roxburgh
Committee Secretary - S King

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

10/08/06

That the apology for lateness from His Worship the Mayor & the apology for absence from Councillor Hoverd be received.

Smith / Mackinder

3 LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 01-85-26

RESOLVED

10/08/07

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

Mackinder / Smith

5 VISITORS

There were no visitors.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 01-85-26

Minutes of meeting held on 12 March 2008 were distributed with the Agenda

J Mylchreest joined the meeting at 9.05am.

RESOLVED

10/08/08

That the minutes of the meeting of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee held on 12 March 2008 be received.

Mylchreest / Townend

7 MAUNGATAUTARI RESERVE COMMITTEE – OFFICER’S REPORT

File: 01-85-26

Project Manager – Heritage Development and Reserves Planning outlined the report.

The proposed Maungatautari Plan Change – Plan Change 56 - was endorsed by the Strategic Planning and Development Committee. The way is now clear to commence with stakeholder consultation. To enforce Council’s view that the land is a Special Landscape Character Area SLCA, the draft as it stands proposes that all Maungatautari Ecological Island entitlements be transferred outside the SCLA. This is likely to raise concern with some land owners. It is likely these landowners would wish to realise a least one title on their property. An alternative could be to retain one entitlement on the parent property and transfer any additional title/s to beyond the SLCA.

Further, it was suggested that adopting colour codes that were sympathetic to the environment would reduce any adverse impact multiple buildings / development would have on the landscape. It was noted that the landscape value of some areas around Maru Road were already compromised by existing pylons. There will be opportunities to amend the proposed draft once landowner consultation is complete.

There is some difficulty in relating the fence line to the boundary of the Reserve. In some cases it might be the carriageway and fence line, in others some land might be behind the fence. The original boundary fence line likely followed a pragmatic alignment rather than specific boundaries. The allocation Schedule is in draft form until such time as Council can confirm where the property boundaries are, the length of fence on that property and the area of land behind the fence.

It is hoped to compile a meeting schedule pending a response from landowners to the written notification. It will be hard to identify all Maori landowners and it is probable that Hui will be required. The consultation will happen throughout June and July.

For representation on the Reserve Management Committee, the Project Manager – Heritage Development and Reserves Planning has canvassed for interest. The Department of Conservation have advised that they will have an attendee at all meetings. No scientific interest at this time, but a Landcare research person could attend if and when required.

R Kelleher joined the meeting at 9.20am.

Pohara Marae and Maungatautari Marae are in the process of establishing a joint committee and will send a representative in the future.

This Committee, a standing committee of Council, is relied on by Council for advice on the management of the Reserve. Composition of the Committee must reflect the significance of the Reserve, public interest in its management and have the ability to advise Council on governance and management issues.

P Tairi joined the meeting at 9.23am.

It was acknowledged that the Maungatautari Scenic Reserve and the Ecological Island project is significant and generating a lot of community interest. From an MEIT perspective, people who have an interest in the project are the same as those probably already involved in some way. With the recent inclusion of R Kelleher and pending Pohara and Maungatautari Marae, the representation is considered adequate.

A draft paper on Honorary Rangers is to go to the Policy Committee and suggestions were requested for four to five people for appointment. Also, a draft agreement between Council and MEIT for undertaking works necessary to meet all statutory obligations is being worked on.

Environment Waikato have arranged for PriceWaterhouseCooper to analyse management and funding issues and recommend changes if needed or desired to better secure future funding. MEIT have promoted an investment fund to provide certainty as it is untenable to rely on funding grants from year to year. Currently the project is being carried by Trustees who have guarantees over personal property.

MEIT have submitted on the Waipa District Council Annual Plan and also the Environment Waikato Annual Plan. Approaches have also been made to Hamilton City Council, Otorohanga, Hauraki, South Waikato and Waikato District Council's for funding. However smaller local bodies see their contribution being made via the Regional Council through EW.

Working with Hamilton Zoo, have closer links have been forged with Hamilton City Council. A recent report by Waikato University shows support from the wider regional community for conservation in general, and commitment to pay quite significant additional money through their rates.

Rachel Kelleher, the Waikato Area Manager for the Department of Conservation advised that DOC have strong links with MEIT along with a strong ongoing interest in Maungatautari Reserve. DOC have a Trustee role and are heavily involved in the translocation processes.

RESOLVED

10/08/09

That the report of dated 22 April 2008 be received.

Townend / Smith

**8 PROGRESS REPORT FROM MAUNGATAUTARI
 ECOLOGICAL ISLAND TRUST**

File: 01-85-26

A progress report from the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust was provided at the meeting.

A map was provided, as at 9th April, showing the tracking results from the pest eradication monitoring. There are effectively 250 kilometres of tracking lines, the enclosures are checked on a three monthly basis and the main mountain on a monthly basis. The potential for mice to enter via vehicles or gear is considered a high risk. The rat that was identified in the northern/eastern side has not been tracked since poison was laid.

Around perimeter of the fence there are mice in big numbers. The hope is that the mice are running further along the fence line and if that is the case there are less mice then indicated. It is not likely to be improvement on dots in middle of mountain as no poison has been located nearby. A plan of attack is being formulated, with near the fence line being spread by hand. Mice and rats will track the edge of buildings/fence for running lines, and almost 100% are hard against fence line. Work is being done on tracking tunnels with aerosol sprays of poison.

Recently in the wetland, mice and rabbits have built up large numbers and are digging out, sometimes into main mountain area. Significant excavation under metal skirt has been uncovered at times. Snails have been eaten and stored under skirt. In the QE II block, staff detected a weasel in there, but only once. It is possible a weasel will fit in mouse area. QE II is double fenced.

Potentially, the green dots at bottom of page could be reinvaders from the wetland area. Takahe have been relocated to the southern enclosure so the wetland can be hit hard. The wetland is honeycombed with rabbit burrows, where the warrens are in layers, which is a major challenge.

A big cluster of dots in the middle of the mountain leads to speculation that they are taken up in vehicles. A rabbitier is currently working on the mountain. The two goats seen just prior to Christmas have not been seen since. There is no sign of any other major pests, rats are easy to deal with but mice are the major problem.

The Kaka are eating ample food, are talkative and are less flighty than the last ones. It is hoped that they will attract others in the area to them. Four were planned to arrive from Wellington Zoo but due to lead poison, one bird died. The male bird had a big lump of metal in his digestive system and died on the operating table.

The translocation of robins have been delayed due to the potential to eat poison and the whitehead translocation is a staff timing issue. Kokako are due to be released later this year. The kiwi from Taranaki are on track with staff looking for male kiwi to put the transmitters on.

The Department of Conservation in Taranaki, local Iwi, the Taranaki Kiwi Trust and Taranaki media have all been supportive of the project which is funded by the BNZ Recovery Trust.

Another similar project at Lake Rotakeri has built a fence and are awaiting money for pest eradication. The vast majority of projects are focused on species management and there are different degrees of recovery. MEIT are aiming for the top 5%, which will be a major achievement if it can eradicate mice. Eventually MEIT could produce enough sub-adult birds to be translocated back to areas like Pirongia.

The cross-mountain track development project on the Reserve requires metal before the onset of winter. No work is to be done over winter. The track is currently two thirds of the way across.

RESOLVED

10/08/10

That the report from the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust provided at the meeting be received.

Mylchreest / Mackinder

**9 CONFIRMATION OF NAMES FOR INVITATION TO JOIN
COMMITTEE**

File: 01-85-26

The Committee feels that the representation is currently right.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

The number of vehicles and pedestrians that use Tari Road is increasing and is a cause for concern. This road is designated a 100km zone and the potential for something to happen is increasing.

RESOLVED

10/08/11

That the Maungatautari Reserve Committee recommend to Council to investigate the safety of Tari Road due to increased vehicular and pedestrian use.

Mackinder / Smith

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.19am.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD

CHAIRPERSON _____

DATE: _____