

Minutes of a meeting of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee held in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on Wednesday 13 April 2005.

1 PRESENT

Councillor RJ Cooper - Chairperson

Members

Councillor GC Flay (Waipa District Council), S Mackinder (Landowner representative), JB Mylchreest (Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust), T Roxburgh (Department of Conservation), P Tairi (Maungatautari Marae) – from 9.50am – 11.30am

In Attendance

Community Planning and Liaison Manager (A McFarlane), Asset Manager Recreation (M Ward), Committee Secretary (C Plowright)

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

10/05/10

That apologies for absence be received from Rose Smith and Barry Townend and for lateness from Peter Tairi.

T Roxburgh/Cr Flay

3 LATE ITEMS

Selwyn Mackinder said he would be raising two issues under General Business relating to transferable development rights and meeting attendance fees.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 01-85-26

RESOLVED

10/05/11

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

J Mylchreest/S Mackinder

5 VISITORS

Nil.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 01-85-26

Minutes of meeting held on 9 February 2005 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

10/05/12

That the minutes of the meeting of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee held on 9 February 2005 be received.

S Mackinder/J Mylchreest

7 MAUNGATAUTARI RESERVE COMMITTEE – OFFICER’S REPORT

File: 01-85-26

Report of Community Planning and Liaison Manager dated 4 April 2005 was included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

10/05/13

That the report of the Community Planning and Liaison Manager dated 4 April 2005 be received.

J Mylchreest/S Mackinder

Reserve Management Plan Review

Community Planning and Liaison Manager, Andrew McFarlane, said the draft Plan had been publicly notified on 21 March with the closing date for submissions on 27 May 2005. He said feedback and comment on the Plan was being sought from Iwi. Tony Roxburgh said he would find out if the Department of Conservation (DOC) had any further comments on the Plan.

[Refer to further discussion on this issue on pages 6-7 of the minutes.]

Access Tracks and Private Property

Andrew said Council required assurance that existing and proposed access tracks that cross private property have the property owners' consent. He said that since writing the report he had received an update from the Trust on the issue.

Jim Mylchreest said that aside from the public access tracks the Trust would also require marked trails along every ridgeline for pest monitoring purposes but these would not be for public use. He said that outside of the enclosures the Trust has no plans, at this stage, to form any more public access tracks. He said it was possible an access track to the waterfall and another across to Maru Road might be installed in future but both require detailed investigation. He said the Trust would notify Council and DOC if it decided to form more public access tracks.

The Chairman asked who would be responsible for the control of noxious weeds on the private property inside the fence. Jim said it had been suggested in the Trust's draft Memorandum of Understanding that the Trust would take on this role even though this is Council's legal responsibility. He said this was an additional maintenance responsibility that had not been anticipated at the beginning of the project.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Andrew explained that staff had prepared the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Council and the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust (MEIT) in order to provide clarity on the responsibilities and expectations of the relationship. He said it was important to have the relationship clarified now that the project is getting to a complex and critical stage and with the draft Reserve Management Plan publicly notified. A draft MOU was included in the agenda for the Committee's consideration and Jim tabled a draft MOU that he had written on behalf of MEIT.

Andrew said it was felt there should be acknowledgement in the MOU that MEIT is an agent of Council responsible for assisting with the operational needs of reserve management.

Andrew said MEIT's responsibilities were essentially of an operational and maintenance nature and a list of 12 of those responsibilities were included in the MOU. He said MEIT's MOU concurred with at least 50% of those responsibilities but he said it was understood there was some concern, from MEIT, about the degree of detail in Council's MOU. He asked if there were some aspects of the draft MOU that the Committee felt should be taken out so it could be revised and an amended MOU brought back to the June meeting for further consideration.

Jim said MEIT is an independent body from Council that will own and be responsible for the pest-proof fence. He said he felt the MOU should be an agreement between Council and MEIT to some general principles without getting into details such as reporting requirements and contractual or agency arrangements. He said he agreed with most of the responsibilities listed in Council's MOU but felt there should be a Bylaw in place, in addition to the Reserve Management Plan, to control pets or other animals going onto the reserve. He said this would allow Council to appoint MEIT members as rangers so they could enforce the provisions of the Reserve Management Plan in a similar way to Lake Wardens. He said a Bylaw would also have provision to close off parts of the reserve and to charge for entry into certain parts. Jim said MEIT had not had a chance to look at Council's MOU and it was likely there would be further comment on it following their next meeting, on 20 April.

There was discussion concerning the removal of fencing in the event that either the ring fence or the enclosures are no longer deemed to be appropriate. Jim said he did not see why the fence would need to be removed because, should the project fold, it would make a good stock-proof fence to protect the bush. It was suggested that this responsibility should either be reworded or removed from the draft MOU.

[Peter Tairi joined the meeting at 9.50am.]

Jim said that whilst he agreed with much of the content in Council's draft MOU he felt it had a dictatorial tone. He said the MOU should be an agreement between two willing parties trying to achieve an even goal rather than a document from Council telling MEIT what it should or should not do.

Tony said the draft MOU provided the bones for the final document. He said it had to be extremely transparent because it was likely it would be used as a model for other similar relationships around New Zealand. He said it was necessary to have a degree of detail in the MOU to provide the public with some confidence that this arrangement is going to work. He said the draft MOU should have an Expectations section to provide the public with a clear understanding of what is expected in the immediate future.

Andrew said he would pass on the Committee's initial comments on the MOU to Council's Executive Managers Group who might then decide that the best way forward would be for John Gallie to work through the document with Jim and Andrew and re-mould an agreement. He said it was helpful to have Jim's version of the MOU and that an amalgam of the two documents could be acceptable to all parties.

It was agreed that the Committee would be given 10 days to compare the two MOUs and provide Andrew with feedback on them by 29 April. A revised MOU will be presented to the 8 June Maungatautari Reserve Committee meeting.

RESOLVED

10/05/14

That staff revise the draft Memorandum of Understanding to reflect the issues discussed by the Reserve Committee and that an amended draft is referred back to the June meeting for consideration.

Mylchreest/Roxburgh

Brown Subdivision – Maru Road

Andrew said Council's Planning staff were currently processing the subdivision application. The subdivision has been split into two stages; the first stage being a boundary relocation, and the second being the creation of additional environmental protection lots in exchange for land which would provide improved access to the scenic reserve from Maru Road.

[Mayor Livingston joined the meeting at 10.10am.]

Jim explained how the proposal would work. He said aside from providing another legal access off a formed public road, it would also provide an area that would be attractive to wetlands species such as Takahe.

[The meeting adjourned at 10.20am and reconvened at 10.43am.]

RESOLVED

10/05/15

That the Maungatautari Reserve Committee supports the principle of the Brown Subdivision.

J Mylchreest/S Mackinder

Translocation Proposal – Kiwi

Tony explained how the proposed 'crèche' arrangement would allow North Island Brown Kiwi to be temporarily housed in the southern enclosure as part of Operation Nest Egg. Jim said there was a proposal being progressed for four permanent birds to be released on Maungatautari, two in each of the enclosures. Tony said the Trust would like to build up its Kiwi population as quickly as possible and would need to look at other sources of supply. He said there would be the added benefit of having a mixed gene pool by sourcing birds from a number of places.

Draft Reserve Management Plan

Peter tabled a report which provides Iwi input on the Maungatautari Reserve Management Plan and which makes the following recommendations -

- **Section 1 – Introduction**

A replacement introductory section has been rewritten and endorsed by whanau as follows –

“Maungatautari Maunga stands sentinel-like in his majesty and is a sacred source of spiritual pride and prestige for Waikato Maaori. The dignity and mana of Maungatautari is a legacy that ensures the link of Waikato’s past and present to future generations. He is revered by all for his significance to the tribal roots and rich diversities that confirm eternal bonds between Waikato and other Iwi within Aotearoa.

In the late 1800’s, Waikato Maaori owned and controlled Maungatautari Maunga but unfortunately today less than 20% remains in Maaori ownership. Despite this fact, Ngati Koroki maintains kai-tiaki (guardian) status on behalf of the Kahui Ariki (Maaori Royal Family) who have very strong whakapapa (genealogy) attachment to the area. Ngati Haua and Raukawa too have supreme affinity with Maungatautari, as do many non-Maaori families.”

Peter said it was felt these words were more appropriate under “Introduction” and should replace the words under “Description of the Maungatautari Scenic Reserve”.

- **Section 6.2 – Public Access to Maungatautari Scenic Reserve**

It was suggested that the words **“will be”** be replaced with **“can be”** to read *“To allow the use of legal covenants to ensure that public access over private land can be protected and the contribution of the land owner can be recognised and compensated for through the use of the provisions of the Waipa District Plan relating to transferable development rights and environmental protection lots”.*

- **Section 6.6 – Protection of Historic and Cultural Values**

It was suggested that the words **“excluding trees or logs”** should be removed from this section to allow Tangata Whenua access to them if required.

Peter said it was important for Maaori to go through the right channels to access trees for cultural purposes. He said it would be up to the Royal Family to decide who will get trees if they become available. Tony said tangata whenua would need to obtain permission from the Minister of Conservation to take trees and it was suggested that the words ***“with the approval of the Minister of Conservation”*** should be added to this section of the draft Management Plan.

- **Section 6.10 – Accommodation**

Peter said the majority of tangata whenua are against any type of accommodation within the ngahere. Jim said the Trust had not given a lot of thought to the accommodation issue, other than the idea of providing temporary structures for a controlled camping experience to allow groups to spend a night on the Maunga and hear Kiwi. He said the Trust needed to know if tangata whenua have strong views on the issue.

- **Section 6.11 – Commercial Activities**

Peter said there was concern amongst elders about passing on information on waahi tapu sites for fear of them becoming a visitor / tourist experience and consequently getting desecrated. Mayor Livingston said it was hoped ongoing consultation with Iwi would ensure this does not happen and that Council would be notified if a project was getting close to a waahi tapu site.

- **Section 6.17 – Mountain Bikes**

Tangata Whenua object to mountain bikes, motorbikes or horses around the enclosure fence line or on any of the walking tracks within the Reserve.

Andrew asked if the above comments should be regarded as a formal submission to the draft Reserve Management Plan from Maungatautari Marae. Peter said they represented the views of the wider Maaori community. Mayor Livingston asked Peter to convey the Committee's thanks to Tangata Whenua for giving the matter careful consideration and that their positive response was appreciated.

[Peter Tairi left the meeting at 11.30am.]

8 PROGRESS REPORT FROM MAUNGATAUTARI ECOLOGICAL ISLAND TRUST

File: 01-85-26

Progress Report from the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED

10/05/16

That the progress report from the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust be received.

J Mylchreest/T Roxburgh

Jim updated the Committee on the Trust's progress with pest eradication, track development, fencing and fundraising.

Asset Manager Recreation, Max Ward, said he was very impressed with the quality of the work that has been undertaken on the main north-south tramping track. He said it had set a high standard for tracks on the rest of the mountain.

Jim said he would be making a submission to Council's draft Annual Plan to ask if there were ways of advancing the payment of the \$750,000 that Council has committed to MEIT. He said the Trust was continuing to pressure Central Government for financial support.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Transferable Development Rights

Selwyn asked if the Trust would be able to collect the fee for the transferable development rights that are being created as a result of the fencing project. It was explained that the Reserve Contribution fund is based on where the development occurs rather than where it has been transferred from.

9.2 Meeting Attendance Fees

Selwyn asked if the Committee could expect to receive a meeting attendance fee. He said he understood the Higher Salaries Commission was going to make a determination on the matter. The Chairman said his understanding was that the Committee would only be able to claim mileage for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 12.06pm.

**MAUNGATAUTARI RESERVE
COMMITTEE MINUTES
13 APRIL 2005**

CONFIRMED

CHAIRPERSON

Next Meeting: 9.00 am Wednesday 8 June 2005 in the Committee Room,
Cambridge