

Minutes of a meeting of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee held in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on Wednesday 8 September 2004 commencing at 9.00am.

1 PRESENT

Councillor RJ Cooper - Chairperson

Members

W Clarke (Ngati Haua), T Roxburgh (Department of Conservation), R Smith (Parawera Marae), P Tairi (Maungatautari Marae), B Townend (Landowner representative)

In Attendance

Mark Chrisp & Sharon Dines (Environmental Management Services)

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

Public - Nil

Peter Tairi opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

10/04/48

That apologies for absence be received from Mayor Livingston, Jim Mylchreest and Grahame Webber.

B Townend/T Roxburgh

3 LATE ITEMS

Nil.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 01-85-26

RESOLVED

10/04/49

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

T Roxburgh/B Townend

The Chairman said the meeting had started an hour earlier to work in with Peter Tairi. He thanked Peter for attending the meeting and asked what time suited him for future meetings. Peter confirmed that 9.00am on the second Wednesday of the month would suit him and he thanked the Committee for changing the time so he could represent Maungatautari Marae at the meetings. He asked if the meetings could all be held in Cambridge, rather than alternating between Cambridge and Te Awamutu, and there was general acceptance of this suggestion.

RESOLVED

10/04/50

That the Maungatautari Reserve Committee will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of the month, but meetings will now start at 9.00am instead of 10.00am, and all meetings will be held at the Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge.

B Townend/T Roxburgh

5 VISITORS

Nil.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 01-85-26

Minutes of ordinary meeting held on 11 August 2004 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

10/04/51

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee held on 11 August 2004 be received.

B Townend/Cr Cooper

Matters Arising -

6.1 Reserve Management Plan

File: 01-85-26 & 60-12-18

Speaking on behalf of Maungatautari Marae, Peter Tairi said he endorsed the engagement of Environmental Management Services (EMS) to work on the draft Reserve Management Plan. He said that when the draft is available it would be helpful if it could be provided to Maungatautari Marae for comment.

Mark said he hoped to attend the next Hui at the Marae, scheduled for early October, to discuss the draft Plan.

Referring to the comment on page three of the minutes (about the level of damage occurring as a result of fence construction being unacceptable to DOC) Tony Roxburgh explained that it was not a case of being “unacceptable” but that in normal circumstances, DOC would have had difficulty approving the work because of the processes that they would have needed to go through.

[Rose Smith joined the meeting at 9.12am]

6.2 Possible Boundary Adjustment, Maru Road

File: 01-85-26

Res: 10/04/47

The Chairman asked if any progress had been made with the suggested boundary adjustment. Community Planning and Liaison Manager, Andrew McFarlane, said staff had not heard from Jim Mylchreest or the affected landowner and until a subdivision application has been received Council was unlikely to prioritise the issue ahead of the Reserve Management Plan. Nonetheless, staff would be happy to discuss the subdivision / land-swap implications when contacted by the affected landowner.

7 MAUNGATAUTARI RESERVE COMMITTEE – OFFICER’S REPORT

File: 01-85-26

Report of Community Planning and Liaison Manager dated 2 September 2004 was included in the agenda.

Community Planning and Liaison Manager, Andrew McFarlane, said Environmental Management Consultants (EMS) had completed some of the consultation with key stakeholders. The only feedback still outstanding is from Maungatautari and Pohara Marae, although contact has been made with both. He said EMS had been asked to start drafting the framework for the revised Reserve Management Plan and he invited Mark Chrisp and Sharon Dines to update the Committee on progress.

[Willie Clarke joined the meeting at 9.15am.]

Mark said it was felt that it would help direct discussion if a framework for the draft Reserve Management Plan was drafted now. He circulated a Table of Contents for the draft Reserve Management Plan and a list of key issues for discussion. Mark said it was intended to get the draft Plan to a stage where it could be talked through with the Committee and the two key Marae.

Mark said the document followed a similar structure to that developed for the Karapiro Domain Management Plan and for Council's recently advertised Lakeside Reserve Management Plan.

Sharon mentioned the difficulty EMS has had in contacting the Maori landowners adjacent to the Reserve. Peter suggested that EMS work through the issue with Ali Tairi, as she has already assisted with this process when the Trust was first formed, and knows most of the families that are involved in the Maori land areas. He said it would be imperative to meet with all the Maori landowners, which would be time consuming, but was a necessary part of the process.

Mark explained the Primary Objective/General Objective approach that will be taken with the draft Plan. He said this would identify the primary focus for management of the reserve and the other policies and objectives that would follow in a supporting role to the primary objective. He said this would make the document more focussed, would provide a clearer steer on management of the reserve and should minimise the opportunity for disagreement in the future.

Mark said the Key Thresholds section of the draft Plan would identify the activities that the Trust and the general public are able to undertake of right, those activities that would need a Resource Consent and those activities that are prohibited. He said this aspect of the draft Plan was similar to Council's District Plan in that regard. He said the core activities of the Trust, such as building the fence, enclosures, tracks and board walks should be activities that can be undertaken as of right whereas things like the tree top walkways might require a consent process. He explained that any non-agricultural activity involving more than five people would require a Resource Consent because of the Rural Zone Rules in the District Plan.

Mark said EMS was keen to receive feedback on the scope of activities that should occur as of right and the extent to the type of activity so a line could be drawn between what is acceptable and what is not. He said that if a Reserve Management Plan was silent on an issue it could be taken as rejection of that activity.

There was discussion about whether the Scenic Reserve classification is appropriate for Maungatautari or whether a classification better suited to the fencing project (such as science and technology or restoration) should be applied. Mark said the reclassification process could be laborious and he suggested that, whilst it was worthy of consideration, if the existing classification allows Council and the Trust to do what it has set out to achieve then it should be left as is.

He said it would be hard to argue that the activities of the Trust are inconsistent with the values of the Scenic Reserve classification. It was suggested that the Committee keep a watching brief on the issue.

With respect to the section in the draft Plan concerning day to day reserve management, Mark asked if Council would consider the option of leasing the Maungatautari Reserve to the Trust. Andrew said that whilst the public were supportive of the project it was on the understanding that Council was seen to retain overall management and control. Leasing of the reserve, or at least the areas beyond the enclosures, might give a perception that Council is relinquishing this control. Leasing also had a connotation of commercial interest, even though the Trust is a non-profit organization, and that commercial gain was exclusively to maintain the fence and its associated 'added value components'.

Tony said that, at present, the Trust is simply a contractor or agent to Council. The fence is the responsibility of the Trust and landowners and this is covered in the Trust Deed. Mark said that, in the absence of a lease arrangement, the Trust could be given specific recognition in the Reserve Management Plan that would allow it to carry out certain activities. He said the relationship between Council, as statutory manager, and the Trust as a lessee or agent would need to be spelt out in the draft Plan. He said this was necessary for everyone's protection, for security of tenure of the land and the ability for the Trust to do things.

Mark said one option for addressing the relationship between Council and the Trust would be a formal lease with a peppercorn rental that would provide the Trust with recognition of exclusive use and the day to day management function. He said that this function would apply to the two enclosures with the possibility of some day-to-day management responsibility for the whole Reserve. Andrew asked that EMS provide the advantages and disadvantages of the various options (lease, contractor, agent) for Council to consider.

Peter said there would need to be clear guidelines in the Plan on the above issue for Tangata Whenua and Iwi to accept it because they would be signing it off with Council and the Crown rather than the Trust. He said if it was made as clear as possible in the Plan there would be buy-in from all the Maori landowners. He said it was felt that if the Koroki Te Rata block representatives gave the project their blessing, and signed off on the Reserve Management Plan, the other Maori landowners would follow suit.

With respect to the objectives and policies in the draft Plan regarding fees and charges, Mark said there was concern that other parties could undertake guided tours and charge people for something that they have not contributed towards or paid to maintain. He said the ability for the Trust to levy fees for entrance to the enclosures, or a small charge to enter the balance of the reserve, was tied up with the previous issue about the relationship between Council and the Trust. Andrew said he could see no circumstances in which the public could be charged for access to the balance of the reserve. Mark said there would need to be objectives and policies in the draft Plan that provide guidance on this issue.

Following further discussion, Mark said the feeling of the meeting was that there is acceptance of some exclusivity within the enclosures, but not the balance of the Reserve, although that area could be used as long as it is limited to building the fence and the poison drop. Use of the balance of the Reserve will need to be explicitly recognised in the Reserve Management Plan and those that can carry out certain activities will need to be identified. Any commercial activity will be limited to the enclosures and will be exclusively for the Trust. Tony suggested that the Trust Deed could be used as the basis for identifying what activities the Trust is involved in.

Andrew said the draft Reserve Management Plan, including options for the above key issues, would be presented to Council's Executive Management Group and would then come back to the Maungatautari Reserve Committee for review and feedback. He explained that there would not be a Maungatautari Reserve Committee meeting until 10 November, because of the local government elections, which would allow more time for consultation and development of the draft Plan. The draft Plan will be sent out with the agenda for the 10 November meeting to give the Committee time to think about it and form some views. Feedback from that meeting will be incorporated into a final draft, for presentation to the Policy Committee and then onto Council, before public notification. Andrew asked that there be opportunity for consultation with Nga Iwi Toopu o Waipa and various Tangata Whenua on the final draft document before it is publicly notified.

Tony said there was a lot of commercial interest in tourism development on Maungatautari and he asked if Council could provide DOC with some guidance on how it should handle any applications for commercial concession. He suggested that Council write to DOC, outlining its views on the issue and recommended that no decision (vis-à-vis licenses) will be made while the draft Reserve Management Plan is being prepared.

RESOLVED

10/04/52

That Council write to the Department of Conservation informing them that there will be no commercial leases considered on Maungatautari Mountain until the Reserve Management Plan has been approved.

T Roxburgh/R Smith

RESOLVED

10/04/53

That the report of the Community Planning and Liaison Manager dated 2 September 2004 be received.

Cr Cooper/B Townend

8 PROGRESS REPORT FROM MAUNGATAUTARI ECOLOGICAL ISLAND TRUST

File: 01-85-26

Progress Report from the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust dated 2 September 2004 was included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

10/04/54

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

Cr Cooper/B Townend

It was noted that the poison drop is taking place on both enclosures today.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 11.00am

Willie Clarke closed the meeting with a Karakia.

CONFIRMED

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CHAIRPERSON

Next Meeting: 9.00 am Wednesday 10 November 2004 in the Committee Room, Cambridge