

*Minutes of a meeting of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee held in the
Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on
Wednesday, 17 November 2004*

1 PRESENT

Councillor RJ Cooper - Chairperson

Members

Councillor GC Flay (Waipa District Council), His Worship the Mayor A Livingston [from 9.22am], S Mackinder (Landowner representative) [from 9.13pm], JB Mylchreest (Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust) [up to item 9] T Roxburgh (Department of Conservation), R Smith (Parawera Marae), P Tairi (Maungatautari Marae) [from 9.16am, up to item 9], T Tauroa (Pohara Marae), B Townend (Landowner representative)

In Attendance

Andrew McFarlane, Community Planning and Liaison Manager
Max Ward, Asset Manager - Recreation
Noelene Barr, Committee Secretary

Public

Erdine Dixon-Harris (Nanaia Mahuta MP)

Ted Tauroa opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

10/04/55

That apologies for absence be received from Willie Clarke.

Mylchreest/Roxburgh

3 LATE ITEM

Pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act the following additional item was requested.

Ted Tauroa requested the following item –

Stance of Pohara Marae on Chairmanship of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee.

Reason why item not included in the agenda:

Staff were unaware that Pohara Marae wished to raise this item when the agenda was sent out.

Reason why discussion could not be delayed to a subsequent meeting:

It was felt that clarify was needed over Pohara Marae's stance on this issue.

RESOLVED

10/04/56

That the stance of Pohara Marae on Chairmanship of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee be included as item 10.

Mylchreest/Mackinder

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 01-85-26

RESOLVED

10/04/57

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

Mylchreest/Roxburgh

5 VISITORS

Nil

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 01-85-26

Minutes of meeting held on 8 September 2004 were included in the agenda.

The agenda stated that this was the last meeting of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee before the Triennial General Election in October 2004. The Chairperson and the Chief Executive are responsible for authenticating the Minutes of the last meeting before a Triennial Election.

RESOLVED

10/04/58

That the minutes of the meeting of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee held on 13 September 2004 be received.

Townend/Smith

Chairman Cooper said that at the last Council meeting, it was suggested that a member from both Kakepuku and Maungatautari wards should be represented on the Maungatautari Reserve Committee. He introduced Councillor Flay, who is Council's representative from Kakepuku Ward.

RESOLVED

10/04/59

That a letter be written thanking Grahame Webber for his attendance as a member of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee

Cr Cooper/B Townend

Matters Arising

6.1 Possible Boundary Adjustment, Maru Road

File: 01-85-26

Res: 10/04/47

A report is being prepared by surveyor, Murray Hislop, regarding the alteration of the boundary. There are issues with the Reserve Act, otherwise it is straight forward.

7 MAUNGATAUTARI RESERVE COMMITTEE – OFFICER'S REPORT

File: 01-85-26

Report of Community Planning and Liaison Manager dated 10 November 2004 was included in the agenda.

7.1 Reserve Management Plan Draft Document

Community Planning and Liaison Manager, Andrew McFarlane, said Environmental Management Services have completed a preliminary draft of the Maungatautari Reserve Management Plan which is being reviewed by Council's Executive Management team. It will come back to this committee for comment before being presented to the Policy Committee and then onto Council. The plan to date follows typical format, including linkages with surrounding environment, results of consultation to date, primary objections with scenic reserves, and general objectives with flora and fauna.

Reference was made to a meeting held on 15 November 2004 between Department of Conservation, Waipa District Council and Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust to discuss the implications of the preliminary draft.

Tony Roxburgh said it was a useful meeting with the key issue being the relationship between Council and the Trust and how that is to be managed. He said this should be a priority. The day to day control is delegated to Waipa District Council but the challenge is the extent to which Council delegates further and still meet its responsibilities. He said there are not many other examples to follow.

Jim Mylchreest said that the hierarchy needed to be addressed, rather than the Trust being seen as a contractor from Council's point of view. The Trust is not paid by Council so is acting as an agent on behalf of Council to run the reserve.

He said the Plan did not include impact on the reserve from environmental or scientific perspectives or how systems could be put in place to generate revenue to maintain the fence. He said concessions to other groups and revenue gained from taking groups through the mountain were not addressed.

In respect to the drafting of the Management Plan, Environment Management Services have advised Council that a contractual agreement might need to be in place between Council and MEIT before the 'management' section of the draft document can be firmed up. Council staff will pursue a meeting with MEIT to clarify the respective obligations and expectations. MEIT's 'management vision' should be documented (in writing) to Council urgently. A long-term issue is the generation of revenue needed to maintain the asset. This, and the issue of concessions, needs to be clarified in the draft report.

Ted Tauroa said that from a Tangata Whenua and Iwi perspective, discussions relating to planning were to be held this afternoon with Mayor Livingston. He said Maori owned land on the mountain that is part of the reserve needs to be treated differently. Existing tracks pass through Maori owned land and long-term discussions are being held with DOC.

Andrew said that the Plan is not near the public notification stage and there is a lot of consultation to take place before this occurs. The draft Management Plan may be available to the Maungatautari Reserve Committee in January.

7.2 Reserve Buffer

Andrew explained that there was a need to control the buffer zone, between the fence and boundary of the reserve. The preferred option was not to create a reserve zone but to recognise Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust as an entity in the Rural Zone Rules of the District Plan. He said it would be less controversial to amend existing rules rather than introduce new zones altogether.

There is no provision in the current budget for this to occur and, depending on urgency, this may have to be driven as a private Plan Change. The cost of this change is approximately \$15,000. Council is waiting for clarification from MEIT on the extent of restrictions necessary for the buffer zone.

Jim Mylchreest said that the fence should be completed within 18 months, so it would not be necessary to rush a Plan Change through this year. He said that the Resource Management Act was an easier mechanism to introduce controls than a Bylaw.

7.3 Access Tracks

Andrew confirmed that some access tracks cross private property and some existing tracks do not have legal status. In light of this there is a need for Council to have knowledge of how extensive MEIT's proposed tracks are. Discussions have been ongoing with the owners of the Koroki Te Rata (KTR) Block, although the outcome is not known at this stage. There is a preference to retain existing tracks in their present location. In the instance of the KTR Block, there is opportunity for Environmental Protection Lots in lieu of community gain.

Peter Tairi said that it is best left in the hands of the KTR Block representatives and further discussions are to be held with them. He said it was nothing to do with the Maungatautari Marae except to offer support. He said that he didn't see any problems at this stage with the tracks remaining in their present position.

Jim Mylchreest said that there was no indication of any problems. However, before the Trust attempts to move to the western side of the mountain in terms of fencing, there is a need to talk to owners as to where fence should go, along with other issues.

Andrew said that Council has introduced a Plan Change to protect heritage lots with the Maungatautari Ecological Island offering numerous opportunities for environmental protection. The fence potentially affects landowners and this presents a tremendous opportunity to use the Environmental Protection Lot Rules in the District Plan. He said guidelines or a formula need to be developed regarding this ordinance and it is likely to involve relocating titles elsewhere by way of Transferable Development Rights.

7.4 Concessions

Andrew said that Council has requested DOC to keep Council informed of any commercial activity in the reserve while the Management Plan is being prepared.

RESOLVED

10/04/60

That the report of the Community Planning and Liaison Manager dated 10 November 2004 be received.

Roxburgh/Mylchreest

8 PROGRESS REPORT FROM MAUNGATAUTARI ECOLOGICAL ISLAND TRUST

File: 01-85-26

Progress Report from the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust dated 9 November 2004 was included in the agenda.

Jim Mylchreest said that both poison operations in the enclosures have been completed. The second drop was delayed because of the weather and occurred six weeks after the first instead of the planned fortnight. Monitoring in the southern enclosure is showing no indications of any mammals since the second drop, with the northern enclosure indicating two hedgehogs but no sign of rats, weasels, or stoats. He said that, overall, it was a good success and that monitoring would continue to confirm that the poison has been successful.

He said there were no problems with the first operation, but the second encountered weather problems and a bait spill over the fence which unfortunately contaminated about an acre of ground, most of which fell on the track on Taylor's property. Volunteers cleaned this up but because of the growth in the paddock it was uncertain if everything had been picked up. The farmer and Food Safety were immediately notified and, as a requirement of the code of practice, the area has to be fenced and destocked for three months. He said Mr Taylor was very co-operative but did have concerns about fencing off an area and the subsequent impact on pasture. Another option was to fence it off and put in cull stock which would be culled at the end of three months and the bodies disposed. Mr Taylor spoke to Food Safety who suggested that, because of the clean up action and the unlikely event of any baits left in the area, he could graze his capital stock instead of culls. Food Safety advised either option was satisfactory to them. The stock will continue to be grazed and will not be slaughtered for 12 months. The Trust has agreed to pay for any stock to be slaughtered and autopsies performed. The poison operation was easy to handle when doing a 35-hectare enclosure, however a system to apply bait from the ground to enable the helicopter to stay away from the fence was required. The application of brodifacoum has been very successful and traces of it have not been detected in the four streams coming off the mountain.

Mr Mylchreest said the Open Day on 7 November was a great success with over 1000 visitors in the southern enclosure which is a good indication from Council's perspective as to how much interest there is in the project.

He said the Trust would continue to build walking tracks for public use while there are sufficient funds to do so. There will be a requirement for different grades of tracks with easy access for public and a network of tracks to enable staff access to the mountain (once the fence is finished) for poison operations and monitoring purposes. These will be cut tracks and not formed with metal. There have been points of interest identified which will require access. The main walking track will be upgraded with an improved alignment to the summit on the southern side. The constructed tracks are totally within reserve area but as circumstances change and landowners are affected, Council and landowners will be kept informed.

He said the fence is due to be completed in August 2006 which is challenging in constructions terms and generating funds. He said MEIT was unlikely to receive confirmation of funds from Environment Waikato until the meeting scheduled for February 2005. Pressure will continue to be put on central government. The Trust continues to encourage funding involvement from Fonterra shareholders and senior management. There are benefits for the company to be associated with the project from a green image marketing perspective, which would generate a return on investment.

Mayor Livingston said he would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Trust organisers for the recent open day and that it was an excellent day and indicative of how the Trust goes about things. It was obvious to everyone that quality has not been compromised even though the Trust is stretched financially. The Lion Foundation were present and could see from the public interest in the project that benefits derived from association with the project are far reaching. The clean and green image is something that Fonterra could run with and receive the same benefit.

Responding to Chairperson Cooper's comment that some dairy farmers are concerned there would be a rate to be paid towards it, Jim Mylchreest said that Environment Waikato gave two years' notice of the levy and received more submissions in favour than against.

Jim said the Trust had no further thoughts on the location and time frame for the information centre, with the main focus being completing the fence. However, there is some pressure to look at the information centre because of its capacity to create revenue. There are already indications that funding (Lion Foundation) would be available for the centre and it is anticipated that planning for this will commence mid 2005.

Mayor Livingston said that interest had been generated in the whole project and he asked whether the Trust could afford not to proceed with the information centre, otherwise a lapse in enthusiasm could occur. Jim said that once monitoring had been completed, the public would have access to the enclosure and a number of groups have been prepared to make a small contribution. It is not cost effective for the Trust's staff to be available for tour parties and in future when the enclosures are open, the parties will need to organise their own experts for the day. He said that he could see the value in establishing the information centre sooner rather than later as it would create more interest in the project and assist with attracting funding.

RESOLVED

10/04/61

That the progress report from the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust dated 9 November 2004 be received.

Mackinder/Tauroa

The meeting adjourned at 10.21am and reconvened at 10.45am.

9 MEETING DATES 2004/2005

File: 01-85-26

The Committee was advised that recent practise has been for the Maungatautari Reserve Committee to meet at 9.00am on the second Wednesday of the month in the Committee Room, Cambridge. There is no meeting in January.

RESOLVED

10/04/62

That the following schedule of meetings be adopted (generally being the second Wednesday of each month, except for January when there is no meeting) starting at 9.00am -

8 December 2004

13 July 2005

9 February 2005

10 August 2005

9 March 2005

14 September 2005

13 April 2005

12 October 2005

11 May 2005

9 November 2005

8 June 2005

14 December 2005

Roxburgh/Townend

10 CHAIRMANSHIP – MAUNGATAUTARI RESERVE COMMITTEE

File: 01-85-26

Ted Tauroa said Pohara Marae wished to have fair representation on the Maungatautari Reserve Committee. He said that, in light of the

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Treaty, Tangata Whenua and local bodies, there is an opportunity for Council to work with Iwi in a representative role, and Council should consider that the Chair of this Committee should be a person from Tangata Whenua. He said Treaty negotiations are continuing with a claim relating to Maungatautari, and should the claim be successful the Marae would be true to the partnership with Council. He said that he had been instructed by the Marae not to attend any meetings of this Committee, but was present today to present concerns and will continue discussions on this topic with a meeting with the Mayor in the afternoon. He said that it was not a reflection on Chairperson Cooper's ability and he had enjoyed attending meetings in the past.

Chairperson Cooper said that this had been discussed at Council and the feeling was that this is a Council Committee and therefore Council should have the Chairmanship. He said Council has obligations and statutory rights.

Ted said that the Marae recognises that it is breaking new ground and hopes Council sees it in this light as well. The Marae would like a greater say as to how their asset is managed.

Mayor Livingston said that Ted's approach was appreciated and the important aspect was that a partnership was involved and the Committee would protect the assets. The Chairman's role is a figurehead where the interests of Iwi were presented and protected round the table in the best possible way. A Councillor was readily available for meeting requirements and was the most appropriate person to Chair the meetings from a political perspective. He said everyone was there for the right reasons, and that is protection of the Maunga.

Discussions on this matter were to continue that afternoon.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 10.55am.

Ted Tauroa closed the meeting with a Karakia.

CONFIRMED

CHAIRPERSON

Next Meeting: 9.00 am Wednesday 9 February 2005 in the Committee Room,
Cambridge