

Minutes of Meeting

Approved

Secretary email:

aldshanks@gmail.com

**Meola Stream Community Liaison
Group**

Date of Meeting: 10 December 2020

Meeting Number 17

Attendees:	<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>
	Peter Wilson	Watercare
	Shalini Sanjeshni	Watercare
	Xenia Meier	Watercare
	Carol Moffatt	Ghella Abergeldie JV
	Alistair Shanks	Secretary
	Graeme Easte	Albert Eden Local Board
	Christina Robertson	Albert Eden Local Board
	Theresa Pearce	Healthy Waters
	Richard Mairs	Te Ngahere
	Rudi Gabor	HOBANZ
	Natasha McCoy	SPICE
	Joanne Harland	SPICE
	Elizabeth Walker	STEPS - Chair
	Pat Prescott	STEPS
	Denis Prescott	STEPS
	Sel Arbuckle	STEPS
	Freddie Sherwin	STEPS
	Andrew MacKintosh	STEPS
Apologies:	Paul Murphy	Auckland Council Parks
	Don and Dierdre Milne	St Luke Apartments Body Corp
	Paul Whitefield	Urban Ark
	Chris Severne	
	Ben Goodwin	Auckland Botanical Society
	Murray Cameron	
	Stacy Colyer	Green Scene
Venue:	GAJV Board Room, 90 Prospect Tce, Mt Eden	

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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1. Minutes of Meetings on 30 June and 15 October

The minutes, revision 1, of the meeting held on 30 June were approved as a correct record.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October were approved as a correct record subject to Theresa Pearce being added as an apology and the following under section 2 after the second paragraph: "The group acknowledged the more than 30 years of work on Meola Creek by Graeme Easte, Albert Eden Local Board member."

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
2.	<p>Construction Update</p> <p>An update was by Carol Moffatt:</p> <p>The shaft at Māngere Pump Station is now complete and six other sites are under construction in the isthmus. A 1300m³ concrete pour is planned at Mangere this month.</p> <p>At Mangere ancient shells were encountered at 32m depth. These have been examined by Dr Bruce Hayward, a well-known geologist.</p> <p>The tunnel boring machine arrived in November. A video was shown of it being transported in sections from the Port to Mangere. Once it is assembled it will be 130m long. The tunnel boring machine will be officially welcomed on 14th December.</p> <p>Works are planned to commence from May 2021 at the Mt Albert War Memorial Reserve, July 2021 at Rawalpindi Reserve, and November 2021 at Norgrove Reserve.</p> <p>The Central Interceptor project was a finalist in the Infrastructure NZ Excellence Social Impact Award. A video was shown on this which included the contractor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishing a Dig Deep literacy programme to help members of the workforce build reading and writing skills • establishing and funding the Morningside Urban Market Garden • developing a Mana Whenua laundry service • providing opportunities for Māori and Pasifika through a youth internship programme • creating the Wānanga Māreikura programme to empower wāhine Māori 	
3.	<p>Update by Watercare - Workshop Part of the meeting</p> <p>Three draft documents prepared by Te Ngahere where discussed.</p> <p>3.1 Norwood Weed Control Scoping</p> <p>A 5m riparian area and modified areas were not included in the weed control.</p> <p>Tree owner approval and a resource consenting process is underway with Council.</p> <p>There will be a staged removal of privet to prevent sudden canopy removal. The removal rate suggested by AECOM was thought to be too sudden.</p> <p>Control will be by cutting and spraying. Chemicals used will be glyphosate, metsulfuron and Trilopyr as per Weed Control Plan Appendix.</p> <p>Discussion:</p>	

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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Under storey weeds were considered a greater problem than privet, so the pace of destroying the privet canopy needs to be undertaken at a considered pace so the new planting can grow.

The proposed rate of canopy destruction was considered to be too fast. If the canopy is cleared too quickly there will be more weeds and a greater need for chemical use. Trees that provide less shade could be targeted. This needs further discussion and review.

Having a community day to get people involved rather than helping with the work. Shalini will consider this further.

Watercare

SPICE is active in the Sandringham area but could encourage people to get involved.

SPICE suggested a more personable form of communication such as door knocking would be more effective than corporate-type flyers.

The possibility of giving people plants for their garden was also raised.

3.2 Norwood Pest Control Scoping

Pests include rats, mice and possums. Trapinator possum traps will be used.

Rat poisoning will be by second generation anticoagulants.

Rodent monitoring will be by using five tracking tunnels and cards baited with peanut butter.

Possums will be monitored by using ten wax tags secured about 30cm off the ground.

Blaze and glo-tags could be used as lures.

3.3 Norgrove Planting Plan

This proposes planting 1600 plants over two years including the current natives in the rock forest.

Future pathways will be left unplanted.

There are two different planting areas, one the canopy areas and the other open areas.

A timeline was shown for the planting until 2025.

Discussion:

The planting of 1600 plants was thought to be too ambitious: planting could be undertaken around the boundaries and birds relied on the seed the inner areas.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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The species diversity seemed limited.

Sel Arbuckle thought planting could focus on disturbed areas, and let natural planting occur in the lava flow areas.

The local board as landowner has informally approved the plan (at a recent workshop).

The farm track into the golf course needs to be planted out to discourage people walking onto the course.

Seeds need to be collected and plants ordered.

There is only a four-year time frame. The local board could be encouraged to pick up the programme after this.

If the canopy removal is slowed down, new plants will take better.

There is a clay area near St Helens end which could be planted first.

3.4 Next steps

If the plans are agreeable, pest monitoring will commence on 11 December. Rubbish remove will start in early January followed by the first stage of weed control. Later in the year the first stage of planting could commence.

An ecologist will look for lizards in the area.

3.5 Comments and feedback on the three plans:

Graeme Easte made the following comments:

Keep paths away from leading the public into the golf course.

The terminology used includes Norwood Reserve, Norgrove and Chamberlain Park. It is called Norwood Reserve by the local board, and the road is called Norgrove Road. The north side of the stream is Chamberlain Park. The correct names should be used.

There is uncertainty where the boundary is on the north side of the creek. The Council plans show discrete boundaries, but other maps show the creek as the boundary. Graeme thought the creek was the boundary and it is unlikely there is any private land on the north side of the creek. The creek flow path was modified to reduce meanders by the Auckland Metropolitan Drainage Board in the past. The Council does not see it as a priority to find the true boundaries. Graeme thought that there are about six properties with ambiguous boundaries.

The riparian margin needs to be further considered. The 5m strip along the north side of the creek needs to provide shading to the creek . The 5m strip on the north side could be planted anyway to shade the stream. Plants could be removed at a later date if they were a problem.

NO.**ITEM****ACTION**

Council has a global resource consent for tree removal. However, this does not extend to Watercare as a CCO.

Liz Walker made the following comments:

The reports were considered to be well done. The Pest Control programme is as expected and Watercare is encouraged to get the work underway.

- The letter of support for rock forest restoration from Botanical Society and Auckland Museum Botany Conservator Ewen Cameron was noted. This outlines available skills and experience in Sel Arbuckle and Ben Goodwin. The use of their skills is encouraged.
- Further comments on weed control and planting are in STEPS update below.

Further general discussion:

It was asked if there was a local pest control group for the area.

Shalini reported that a fact sheet was being sent out by Watercare to about 70 local residents today: Shalini tabled the fact sheet.

Signage will be put up in the area.

There was discussion about how much information should be put out about the type of chemicals that are going to be used.

4. Update by Healthy Waters

It was reported that there have been funding and staff cut-backs.

Healthy Waters would like to see daylighting of some of the area at Haverstock Road. Simon Warren from Plant and Food is to be contacted and the discussion progressed.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
5.	Update by STEPS	

Many of the STEPS thoughts have already been noted in the comments on the Norwood Plans.

STEPS made the following key points on the Weed Control and Planting documents:

- The main weeding focus needed on the under storey (eg asparagus weed, veldt grass) while **maintaining canopy cover** – less than 10% privet reduction per year preferred, over longer period
- STEPS asked Watercare to engage volunteer rock forest specialists Sel Arbuckle and Ben Goodwin with Te Ngahere, (with whom STEPS has worked for more than 12 years). This was agreed
- Any planting should focus on enrichment species in clay fill areas, encouraging “natural regeneration” on the lava flows and rocks. One sizeable area of clay is to the east near AIS, STEPS can help locate transition zone from clay fill to lava
- It was expected that engagement between STEPS and Te Ngahere was needed and revised weeding and planting plans provided for review

Christina Robertson stated that the plans should follow the science, and both she and Graeme Easte felt that these aspects would not materially affect the Albert Eden Local Board’s review of the draft plans.

Liz Walker promised that the following would be sent to the group:

- STEPS Update and Comments on Norwood plans
- Letter of Support from Botanical Community
- Pest control comments – Urban Ark
- Weed and planting comments from Ben Goodwin, Auckland Botanical Society
- Sel Arbuckle’s comments

These five items are attached to the minutes.

6. Other Matters

Graeme Easte stated he would like to see the Rawalpindi Reserve improved by making it flatter when it is reinstated after works in the area. Peter reported that Council staff do not support that suggestion and so the work will not be undertaken.

Graeme asked when planting details for this area would be available and

NO.

ITEM

ACTION

was informed it was likely to be in the second half of 2021.

7. Next Meeting

This will be held in March (date to be determined) after the Norwood plans have been further updated.