

Tararua District Council Eketahuna Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Eketahuna Community Board held in the Eketahuna War Memorial Hall, corner of Jones Street and State Highway 2, Eketahuna on Friday 9 April 2010 commencing at 10.00am.

1. Present

Board Members J M Harman (Chairperson), C C Death (Deputy Chairperson), Elizabeth Fraser-Davies (until item 9.2) and Cr W H Davidson (Council appointed community board member).

In Attendance

Mr B King	-	Chief Executive (for item 3)
Mr R Taylor	-	Governance Manager

2. Apologies

2.1 *That an apology be sustained from Board Member K A M Dimock for non-attendance at the meeting.*

Death/Fraser-Davies

Carried

3. Shannon to Eketahuna Proposed Cycleway

3.1 Fifteen members of the community were in attendance at the meeting for this item of business.

3.2 The Chairperson extended a welcome to the meeting, and thanked David Clapperton (Strategic and Corporate Services Manager) of the Horowhenua District Council and Blair King (Chief Executive) of the Tararua District Council for their attendance.

3.3 Apologies were noted from Pat Kelly and Denise Clifton (members of the public), and Brendan Duffy (Mayor of the Horowhenua District Council).

3.4 David Clapperton introduced Peter Shaw to the meeting, and advised that he would be assisting in making the presentation regarding the proposed Shannon to Eketahuna cycleway.

3.5 David Clapperton proceeded to make a visual presentation to outline the cycleway proposal, and this included reference to the following matters:

- The proposed route has been named “The Missing Link” as it provides a safe off road cycle connection from the west to the east of the lower North Island. This will open up options on both sides of the Island for cycle travellers.
- The route will showcase the stunning natural environment of the Tararua Ranges and will connect with the “Nature Coast” hinterland.
- The route utilises quiet local country roads and an access road from Shannon to the high point of the route, and this requires a new trail to be formed to link across from the high point down to Eketahuna.

- The track will be a minimum of 2.5m in width, although it may be narrower for short bridge sections if this is required to minimise the construction costs. The surface will be formed as a compacted and metalled surface. Culverts and side drainage will be important given the high rainfall that occurs at times.
- The distance is approximately 40 kms town to town, with 24 kms of the trail through the magnificent Tararua Forest Park.
- The Missing Link will provide either a one day return (for the moderately fit) or a multi-day cycling experience for the average cyclist.
- The location of the Missing Link relative to the regional context also enables an extensive network of trail opportunities to be accessed to the north and south.
- The Missing Link has the potential to provide a significant tourism attraction through the nature of its location by drawing on both sides of the Island and linking existing tourism infrastructure.
- This will return economic benefits to the towns of Shannon and Eketahuna and the wider region through extending the opportunities available for travellers to experience this part of the North Island. It is projected that the potential traveller numbers using the cycleway is 16,000 per annum by 2014.
- At this time the cycleway project has not been granted funding from the Ministry of Tourism, and it was not included as part of the New Zealand Cycleway Project. However, the project is on record should further funds become available in the future.
- The cost of the feasibility study for the Shannon to Eketahuna cycleway is estimated to be \$80,000 to \$90,000.
- Horowhenua District Council has some funds available for this purpose, and they propose to work in partnership with other key stakeholders to progress the project through a joint working party being established.
- Expressions of support are now being sought for the project and to consider preparing a draft brief of the feasibility study.
- It is proposed that Boffa Miskell Limited be engaged to undertake the feasibility study.

3.6 The opportunity was then provided for general discussion and questions on the project, with there being no objections raised to the concept of the proposed cycleway and the Board's support being indicated.

3.7 Chris Lester and Ian Cooksley of the Department of Conservation were then invited to address the meeting, and their comments included reference to the following matters:

- The Department of Conservation has experience in developing cycleways through areas that they administer for the crown as Forest Park areas.

- The Department supports such recreational activities in these areas as they promote economic development through recognised natural environment destinations and tourism experiences.
- The granting of consent to proposals involving this type of land is subject to an assessment of the environmental effects and the impact on users of these areas.
- The Shannon to Eketahuna cycleway project has significant potential, and it can be achieved provided there is consultation with all interested parties and a satisfactory outcome is ensured regarding any environmental effects.

3.8 The Chairperson thanked all those in attendance for their contributions to these discussions, and acknowledged the exciting opportunities that this project would provide.

3.9 The Chairperson conveyed the Board's interest in the development of this project, and keeping the community informed of progress in undertaking the stages involved.

4. Personal Matters

4.1 The meeting stood briefly in silence to remember the three people that were tragically killed through a road accident on State Highway 2 near Dannevirke.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

5.1 Nil

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 ***That the minutes of the Eketahuna Community Board meeting held on 5 March 2010 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.***

Fraser-Davies/Death

Carried

7. Matters Arising From The Minutes

7.1 **Cliff Walk** (Item 6.3)

7.1.1 The Community Assets Manager is waiting for a quote from Infracon to maintain the Cliff Walk.

7.2 **Memorandum of Understanding for the Eketahuna Water Supply Resource Consent** (Item 6.4)

7.2.1 The Board's concern is to be expressed to the Horizons Regional Council regarding the delay in receiving the finalised Memorandum of Understanding for the Eketahuna Water Supply resource consent.

7.3 **Proposed Closure of the Northern Wairarapa Railway Line** (Item 11.1)

7.3.1 A response is awaited from the Member of Parliament for Wairarapa, John Hayes, regarding the Board's letter concerning this matter

7.4 **Access to Masterton Hospital (Item 16)**

7.4.1 The Chairperson and Cr Davidson attended the public forum of the MidCentral District Health Board at its meeting held in Dannevirke, and spoke on residents from Eketahuna being denied access to medical treatment through the Masterton Hospital.

7.4.2 It appears that this situation may now have been resolved through the cross-boundary district health board arrangement with the Masterton Hospital being reinstated.

7.4.3 The St John ambulance service contract with the Ministry of Health stipulates that patients from Eketahuna are to be taken to Palmerston North Hospital.

7.4.4 This arrangement is not satisfactory to the Eketahuna Community, and a letter will be sent to the Ministry of Health requesting that in its future contracts the Masterton Hospital be the preferred destination for accessing medical services (where there is no disadvantage to the patient).

7.4.5 The Mayor and Member of Parliament for Wairarapa will also be asked to send similar letters to the Ministry of Health supporting the proposal to change these contract arrangements.

8. **Tararua District Council Report**

8.1 ***That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 10 and 31 March 2010 (as circulated) be received.***

Davidson/Death

Carried

9. **General Assistance Grants Scheme 2009/2010**

9.1 ***That the following grants be approved for disbursement from the Eketahuna Community Board's General Assistance Grants Scheme for the 2009/2010 annual funding allocation.***

No	Name	Project	Amount Granted
1.	Eketahuna Bowling Club	Rates relief and centennial advertising	600.00
2.	Eketahuna Club	Repaint the Club roof	2,795.00
3.	Eketahuna Our Town	Town Centre security camera monitoring system	2,000.00
4.	Tararua Television Trust	Upgrade transmission software and graphics card	150.00
	Total amount granted		\$5,545.00

Death/Fraser-Davies

Carried

9.2 Board Member Fraser-Davies departed from the meeting at 12.28 pm.

10. Aubrey Watercolours of Eketahuna

- 10.1 *That the Aratoi Wairarapa Museum of Art and History be granted the sum of \$800.00 from the Board's discretionary funds as a contribution towards the costs of conservation work and the framing of the three Aubrey watercolours of Eketahuna.*

Death/Harman *Carried*

11. Correspondence

- 11.1 *That the correspondence as listed be received:*

(a) *Sport Tararua* *3 March 2010*

Re: Request for financial assistance

(b) *New Zealand Historic Places Trust* *10 March 2010*

Re: Acknowledgement of Board's submission on the Anzac Memorial Bridge registration proposal

(c) *Eketahuna Our Town Inc.* *15 March 2010*

Re: Request for reimbursement of Eketahuna Information Centre costs

Death/Davidson *Carried*

11.2 **Sport Tararua**

- 11.2.1 *That Sport Tararua be granted the sum of up to \$100.00 from the Board's discretionary funds as assistance towards the cost of hiring the Eketahuna Community Centre facility for the Tararua Sportsperson of the Year Awards to be held on 21 May 2010.*

Death/Davidson *Carried*

11.3 **Eketahuna Our Town Inc**

- 11.3.1 *That the request from Eketahuna Our Town Inc. for the funding of costs incurred in relation to the Eketahuna Information Centre totalling \$4,131.93 be approved.*

Death/Davidson *Carried*

12. Mangaoronga Cemetery Trees

- 12.1 The Board supports the pine trees along the old driveway at the Mangaoronga Cemetery being removed as required, with the felled trees to be offered to the Eketahuna Fire Brigade for firewood.

13. Reports From Board Representatives Appointed to Organisations and Assigned Responsibilities

13.1 Tararua District Road Safety Group

13.1.1 Board Member Death gave a verbal report on the recent meeting of the Tararua District Road Safety Group, and this included reference to the following matters:

- The minor safety improvements in the vicinity of Cheethams dip have been completed.
- The sealing has been undertaken in the vicinity of the North Road minor safety improvements, with the road marking to be done to finish this work.

14. Anzac Day

14.1 The Chairperson outlined the arrangements for the Anzac Day Service in Eketahuna as advised by Joe Sweeney of the Eketahuna Returned Services.

14.2 Board members were invited to attend the Anzac Day Service at the Anzac Memorial Bridge from 2.00pm to 3.00pm.

15. Chairman's Remarks

15.1 Nil

16. Items Not On The Agenda

16.1 Nil

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 12.55pm.

Chairperson