



Recreation + Transportation Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 12, 2023 – 2:30PM

Location: Remote via Zoom (pursuant to the Committee's adopted [Remote Meeting Policy](#))

Present: Mary Anne Moisan (Lead), Mary Devlin (Member), Derek Webber (Member), Andrea Keushguerian (Member), Isabelle Oechslie (Consulting Planner)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting began at 2:30PM.
2. **Review of Draft 1: Recreation Topic Area:** Isabelle directed the group to the Recreation Topic Area draft included in the meeting packet. To start discussion, she asked the group to focus on the following questions: Are there any questions about the data provided? Is there any additional data that you'd like to see? Does the data provided jive with your understanding of existing conditions within Damariscotta?

A question was raised regarding Biscay Pond: The draft calls this an unmaintained boat launch, but both the beach and the boat launch are maintained. Need to research who owns/maintains it and make sure that is referenced in the document. Note that it is a public area (and it is a formal boat launch, but its small size is because Biscay Pond is a small pond).

The group noted that we need to underscore that active/developed recreation areas are severely lacking in Damariscotta.

Significant discussion occurred surrounding water access. It was pointed out that much of the river frontage is publicly owned, with limited public access. In addition, access for those with disabilities is severely limited across all recreation areas (and there is currently no access to the water for those with disabilities). The group noted that toilet facilities need to be considered as part of access, and that we'll need to understand what else is important to the public in terms of access. It was noted that there are survey questions that will inform this in more detail.

Discussion was hard regarding changing cultures and impediments to accessing private lands (as a result of said changing culture). Some access [for hunting] is available with notice to Coastal Rivers. It was suggested that perhaps we focus on the positive aspects of access, such as Coastal Rivers continually acquiring more land for conservation.



Final thoughts: appreciated the clarity regarding definitions of active versus passive recreation, but Mary noted that we will need to ensure consistent language being used throughout the document. Derek and Mary Anne pointed out that that was a major flaw of the 2014 Plan (that locations were referenced and terms were used without definition or were inconsistently used).

3. **Set next meeting date:** Isabelle will follow up with the group via email to set a date for the next meeting.
4. **Adjournment:** Adjourned without objection at 3:45PM.