

Duiwenhoks Conservancy minutes 31st of April

Meeting started at 10:19am

John gave chairman's report – a summary of the past year activities and progress on the community project.

Discussion on chairman's report

John: Up to the landowner to maintain land clearing after alien clearing by community team.

Tessa Oliver: Seed bank for Rooikrans can remain viable for 60 – 80 years.

John: We need to continue fundraising for alien clearing.

John: will put the Cape Nature contact person on website with regards to illegal trek netting.

John hand over to Abie Pretorius to provide feedback on the Community Project

Abie Pretorius: It's a big challenge to manage the people issues in the community group. Off my team, some have been arrested, other not working for health related reasons. Not enough people to support the project.

Abie Pretorius report on activities: Interest in project amongst the community members is not high. Jobs are labor intensive and incentives are not easily perceived amongst workers. WC Department of Agriculture, who provided support, need proof to see that we have progressed the village food garden. I Maintenance of equipment and transport presents problems. Team needs transport & a trailer. Training is wasted due to drug abuse amongst workers.

John: thanked Abie Pretorius for working under the difficult circumstances present in the community. Abie Pretorius has a tractor, not ideal for transport of workers. Funds need to be raised for workers transport.

Tessa: Round-robin email amongst committee members to clarify what the clearing team needs.

Guy: We need to raise money for the transport asap.

John: We need a bakkie & a Trailer. We plan a crowdfunding campaign to raise the money. You will be notified by email. People can pledge. Once target is reached for the committee can collect the pledged funds.

Rob Hill: Feedback on efforts of previous conservancy committee to build fire resilience: Bakkie sakkie, parked at Abie Pretorius' house. John Standbridge serviced it. Anyone with a bakkie could collect water. 10 or 12 firebeaters at Abie Pretorius' house. Response plan for fire is out of date. Who can the community contact? We planned a fire break around whole village, nothing came out of it.

Tessa Oliver discussion on her role as a GEF project leader.

The fire danger period is extending. Solution, pilot project, involving the entire community in the discussion. Explained Integrated Fire Management. Hand over tool-kit with information about fire response plans ect. Conservancy area should become a member of the fire prevention zone. A collective can get an exemption. A fire break around the entire community is better than individual properties. Where are the fire danger zones located? Anthropogenic risks, spread to do with wind and fuel. The extent of invasive alien plants. The follow-up after the clearing, pulling up seedlings, easier. The Southern Cape FPA association can get involved, in terms of training community members. Have to get permission from non-conservancy members. Need a homogenous fire break. Need access for fire-fighters.

Discussion on Funding the Fire Project
John: How do we fund the fire-break?

Tessa: People pay according to the amount of the fire-break on their property.

Sarah: According to Charl Wade, you are obliged to have fire break around property. But payment is per house. Less the land than the houses we are protecting.

Tessa: Work out what the entire fire-break will cost, as a collective. What is your value that you are protecting. Outside of the collective, separate. Law overrides the right of the landowner in terms of responsibility.

Sarah Ward: What about a Levy?

Tessa: Law's against the levy.

John: We need to refresh the emergency response to fire as well as preventative measures. We can use this project to continue to support Abie's work team.

Sarah: The fire break is about access for fire-fighters. Not protecting properties.

Tessa: What are the conservancy boundaries. Charl needs to work out environmental conditions of the area and fire management plan. Don't absolve entirely if Conservancy joins FPA. Benefits if is a fire, reduce rates on aerial response etc. Where does the conservancy sit in terms of other protected zones. Important to partner up with other zones.

Sarah: Fee has to be obligatory part of the rates. Some system needs to be set-up with local municipalities. District municipalities might take some time.

Tessa: Which municipalities (district or local) do you engage with? Not sure need to find out.

Paula: How is the engagement with Charl Wade

Sarah: Plan and costing for maintenance is being put together. We can't engage if we don't have funding. Maybe borrow money for the plan from the conservancy and pay it back.

Member: How do you apply for the exemption? The exemption process takes a year. It's a really important step.

Tessa: you need to reduce your liability now. How to become a fire aware community? Apply for funds through the local municipality. Municipal engineer can assist with plan and getting funds. Buy small portable pumps and fire hoses and not reliant on electricity. Abie Pretorius has huge responsibility to protect the village when residents not in the area. Need to contact homeowners what fire preventative objects are in the home.

John: Need to get a working group started.

Sarah: we need people who live here.

Annamarie, Tracy, Frans and Abie Pretorius. Julia are permanent members. And of the 130 only 10 families could be made available for the conservancy.

Tracy: Community service idea. Pay for service, if you can't that money goes in a kitty. And that can be used to pay local members.

BARRY: Need to educate the wider community outside the conservancy.

Tessa: Conservancy needs to remember its not a rate payer association. Maybe a different kind of community association must be created separately, like a neighborhood watch.

John: Last two items on the agenda.

- Crime in the village,
- elect a committee going forward for next year.

Louise: Need to build a stronger relationship with the community. Rubert can invite members to a meeting. Where members can raise concerns.

Element of crime is coming within the community. Building a leadership structure is important.

Tessa: Is using funding for crime in line with your mission statement?

Annamarie: The problem is, more drug-users than before. I don't actually interact with the drug-users. They aren't in contact with the actual community. We need to contact but we need someone who knows how to contact these people.

Tessa: to Annamarie how can we build more of family. The Conservancy should hear the voices of the people in the Kop, rather than assuming what the issues

are. Can you tell us more about why they take drugs, what the underlying issues are ?

Abie Pretorius: Meeting with the police. The Skoolkop community must make an intervention. Call out the drug-abusers within their community. We need a professional to sit with the Vermaaklikheid community person who is a drug-user, find out the problem. Need more social work to be done than making accusations and isolating the suspects. You can't solve with violence. You need to show them how to face their problems. Rupert needs to give the guys a reality check about their life.

Sarah: There is real conflict within the community between certain individuals and the rest of the community.

John: we need policing. Where are the drugs coming from?

Craig: Social work is better than preventing drug trafficking. You need to think about your identity in relation to the drug-users.

Tessa: Divide present in the community but safety and security connects everybody. Need a separate community association.

Louise: Will the conservancy be willing to fund Rupert's intervention?

Vote for YES.

John: need to confirm that the 'Kop' community wants this intervention first.

Sarah: need to get in outstanding subs from members to use to fund Rupert

Barry: does the conservancy represent the community properly? If we are going to do the fire break, who else do we need to draw in to be part of this that aren't in the conservancy

Tracy: get together with Anna and Annemarie to hold a meeting on the kop to hear the voices of those not represented at this meeting about the social issues in the village. Anna to action

Anna: Suggests that Guy is part of the team who engages with the Kop community as they respect them. Sadly its men and women who are selling drugs in their community

Annemarie: different drugs have different effects on people and things like dagga have less negative effects for working ethic than other drugs and people should be more tolerant of people using it.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Anthony Black lead the election

Christ recommends that the current committee stay standing. All agreed

Carl Wesselink to be asked if he wants to remain on the committee?

Nicky Irving and Guy elected to join the committee

John suggested a committee meeting in the village a month from now.

Meeting closed at 12h25

