



Sand Dune Vegetation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Gearhart City Hall May 6, 2017 10-11:30AM

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 17th 6:30-8:30PM. Location: Gearhart City Hall.

Committee Attendance: Bill Corti, Jack Delaney, Jim Furnish, Sharon Kloepper, Reita Fackerell, Mike Brackenbrough, Nancie and Thad Clark, Janet Ottem, and Kerry Smith

(Attempted) Skype Call-Ins: Stewart Schultz and John and Margaret Green

Audience: Paulina Cockrum, Dianne Widdop, Bebe Michel, Eric Halperin, Dee Madden, George Van Hoomissen, and Chad Sweet.

****apologies for any misspelled names.**

Committee meetings are open to the public.

- I. Purpose of the Committee
 - a. The purpose of the committee is to help the City identify a strategy to manage the vegetation on the dunes throughout Gearhart. The committee will make recommendations to the City, which the City will consider alongside other information.
- II. Review of Technical Information
 - a. Hannah is working with CREST Ecologists to review technical reports. Moving forward, information from a variety of sources will be used in discussions.
 - b. Hannah is working with CREST Ecologists to gather information about bird habitat requirements for birds that have been spotted in the dunes. We will also work on looking into how bees and other wildlife use the dunes.
 - c. Much of the meeting focused on a discussion about Scotch Broom. Specific points include:
 - i. Scotch Broom is listed as a noxious plant by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.
 - ii. We discussed the basic ecology of the plant: it is a deciduous shrub, grows 3-10 feet tall, blooms between April and June in the PNW, tolerates a variety of soil types, the plants fix Nitrogen in the soil, it spreads, reproduces by seed, seeds can remain viable for 80+ years, fire enhances seed germination, and individual shrubs can live 10-15+ years.

- iii. We discussed a variety of management options. Work parties to manually remove the plant would be the most practical for the City. Goats were also mentioned.

Next Meeting: Will begin the visioning process so the committee can gather their recommendation for the City. Questions that will be addressed include:

1. What role does woody vegetation play on the dunes?
2. What is the desired ground cover 10 years from now?
3. How should the City address noxious weeds on the dunes?