

Welcome and introductions: Todd Kaden, Dave Zeretzke (Minutes by DZ), Diana Mancel (Hist. Soc. liaison), Steve Ulvi and Sarah Hanson, founder of local NProfit re permaculture in SJC.

-Cowichan Tribal followup: discussion again about indiginous peoples and SJ Island pre OMR. Contact by new Cowichan tribal representative via email this day forwarded to Jeffery Gillette for followup. Consensus again that the historical potential to highlight all users of the land over which or near to the OMR or the new trail is limitless and allows for recognition of all people even though the historical record about the road itself seems only connected to indiginous people by the laborers hired to build it. Jeffrey to report next mtg. Contact with Hudson Bay Co. of Canada also noted as corporate creator of the road - again, Jeffery to followup.

-Committee group presentations:

American Legion: Jeffery to coordinate for 2/18 presentation by Jefferey & Dave
Land Bank - Dave to coordinate for Fri., Jan. 17th, 9:00 at the Grange by Todd and Steve and Dave
SJCounty - awaiting County Council time per Mike Thomas - by Mike?, & Dave
Lions, - Tues., Jan 28th by ? - Dave to contact T. Starr re location and time and get another presenter
Town, Rotary, Kiwanis, Soroptomists, Senior Ctr. Conserv. Dist., etc. - no plans yet

Meeting with Will Hamilton (Saltchuck Properties local rep. for owners/forester for 1,300 acres east of Eng. Camp and Mitchell Hill) noted. Will's enthusiasm and support invigorated the informal holiday gathering at LimeKiln Cafe. Info about old SJ County road right-of-way (unused and probably grown over) across property to be explored with Public Works. Quote of the meeting from Diana Mancel: "Grab by the tear ducts!" re potential supporters and public.

-website development - fr Tim Dustrude (now in AZ but working on-line). New info since mtg: website version 1.00 fr Tim. Check out oldmilitaryroadtrail.org/ and respond to Tim Dustrude at dustruce@mac.com for ideas about changes/additions

-NPS Grant fr River, Trails and Recreational Areas (RCTA)Program: Phone conf. call with Alex andrea (Alex)Stone and Lucia Portman discussed. 2 day site visit by RCTA staff with overnigher in FH noted and need for OMRT work sessions prior to for preparation. Purpose of site visit if for RCTA staff to understand the vision and the project, get the 'lay of the land', meet partners and Committee and then plan for assistance from RCTA as will best aid the project in 2020.

Ways to kickstart OMRT strategic plan and Committee workplan with RCTA help for 2020 discussed given need for public process and transparency. Complexity of issues affecting a modern trail noted. Need to simplify for public understanding. OMRT Committee members need for knowledge of issues important to aid public process/input will be compromised. We all need to have the same understanding of the major factors affecting any proposed route/multiuse.

Steve proposed the existing Committee members and liaisons meet several times soon to examine maps of SJ Is to consider 1990 OMR trail proposals, various OMR historical routes/spur trails, and modern maps of parcels, roads, topography, and conserved areas potentially useful for a modern trail of various sizes. We to learn if the options to connect English and American Camps are more apparent. If the potential routes for various multiuse options are roughly identified, then the work of the RCTA would be a lot easier to help the Committee gain momentum and create both the strategic and work plans for future years. An initial meeting would identify a lot of questions to be answered as part of any feability study. To engage the public, it will be necessary to have some route and user options to discuss and the main factors affecting each option readily

'seen' on the maps. Hard copy maps with plastic overlays for drawing recommended by Steve and endorsed by everyone as an easy way to brainstorm the connections.

Todd then introduced a proposal to break the modern trail into 4 segments for easier discussion. It has been the way we all think about the trail anyway.

Individual OMRT trail segments for planning/discussion

1. San Juan Island National Historical Park, American Camp unit along Cattle Point Rd to an undefined location on Cattle Point Rd. (2-4 miles)
2. Cattle Point Rd (undefined location) to the SJC Land Bank's Zylstra Lake Preserve. (5-9 miles)
3. SJC Land Bank's Zylstra Lake Preserve to SJC Land Bank's Cady Mountain Addition (Lester) Preserve bordering Three Corner Lake Rd. (4-8 miles)
4. SJC Land Bank's Cady Mountain Addition (Lester) Preserve to San Juan Island National Historical Park, English Camp unit. (3-4 miles)

All agreed this made good sense - suggestion to make 5 segments by splitting #2 segment at Bailer Hill Rd since SJ Valley topography and wetlands quite different than higher ground east and south of Bailer Hill Rd. Todd to revise proposal for segments. Map pages taped together from SJ County Map Book of pages from English Camp to Zylstra Lk examined as a demo of what Committee could use for discussion of probable route and use options. All agreed paper maps on table/wall work really well for discussion.

Proposed dates next wk for mtg of Committee to start preparing for the RCTA site visit with initial examination of maps available/trail segments defined/known issues/type of users probable for various sections/ etc. Another 2 hr mtg before the site visit during the last week of Jan. will conclude our preparation and allow a much more efficient use of RCTA staff time and our later work.

Either Weds. 15th at Island Rec fr 3:00 to 5:00 **OR Thurs. the 16th** from 11:00 to 1:00 at Island Rec.

Committee Members: **Please reply to Dave with the date that works best for you. Please try to attend at least the first hour at least.**

Discussions with RCTA staff re answers to RCTA email of Dec. 11 questions not discussed. **Questions and answers attached FYI for Committee members to review for preparation of Feb 4&5 site visit. Suggest all OMRT Committee members also review relevant website links in answers and esp. the SJ County Polaris mapping system (GIS system) available on SJ Co Assessor website.** The SJ County GIS system is the robust mapping platform the Committee is so fortunate to have available.

-**Eric Stone, Boy Scout Leader** and local surveyor interest in OMR noted. Todd to set up mtg with Stone to discuss Committee work and OMRT project.

-**Island Rec deadline for Spring/summer mailer:** when and how much content/photos? Size available?
Dave to still followup with Maddie at Island Rec.

Next mtgs: See above for choice of preparation mtg times for next week, **AND save Feb 4&5th for site visit/walks/mtgs with RCTA staff** (Note: Regular mtg of OMRT Comm. at Island Rec Conf Rm on Tues., Feb 4, at 12:30 - 2:00 as part of site visit)

End of minutes - two attachments below

OMRT Committee progress June 2019 to December 2019

- Secured organizational support for the OMRT from San Juan Island Historical Society and Museum
- Press release to local medial announcing the formation of the OMRT committee
- Developed information brochure and poster for distribution and presentations
- Shared informational booth with the SJINPH during the August 2019 SJI Fair in Friday Harbor
- Started informational website - oldmilitaryroadtrail.org
- Formal slide presentation to San Juan Preservation Trust Board
- Developing logo concepts and options for signage
- Press release to local media announcing RTCA/NPS grant
- Developed vision statement: “To create a non-motorized, multi-use Trail from English Camp to American Camp celebrating the historic Old Military Road by utilizing current trails, select conserved lands, lightly-traveled roads, and voluntary easements on private land.”
- Continue to recruit additional OMRT committee members with expertise in select areas
- Confirmed the Saltchuk Company’s commitment to allowing the OMRT to cross their 1300-acre parcel adjacent to Mitchell Hill, SJINHP English Camp and provide funding for construction and maintenance
- Secured support of local Boy Scout Troop 4090 and their offer to provide volunteer trail work, ongoing maintenance, and land for trail route
- Connected with the Cowichan Tribe to investigate contribution to the corridor construction; no written records from Tribe but unknown if elder oral history is available
- Developing a list of individuals who are supportive of the OMRT and authorize the committee to use their name publicly in future media releases
- Developing a list of organizations that support the OMRT and authorize the committee to name publicly
- Developing a list of local businesses that support the OMRT and authorize the committee to name
- Secured support of Friends of Lime Kiln Society, a supporting non-profit of Lime Kiln Point State Park
- Upcoming formal publications planned: SJC Council, SJC Land Bank Board, Saltchuk Company executives, American Legion, Lions Club, Town of Friday Harbor Council, San Juan Conservation District, Rotary Club, Kiwanis, SoroptimistsOMRT Start-up Topics and Answers to RTCA (Revised on Jan 4,2020)

Old Military Road Trail: Project Development Topics-

OMRT Start-up Topics and Answers RTCA Jan 4,2020 revised

Getting Started with Planning – Existing Conditions/Baseline Information

- SJI and county community demographics? <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/sanjuancountywashington,WA/PST045219> and <https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/county-and-city-data/san-juan-county> and summary: **The population of San Juan County, WA is 89% White, 6% Hispanic or Latino, and 1.9% Two or More Races. N/A% of the people in San Juan County, WA speak a non-English language, and 96.8% are U.S. citizens. The median property value in San Juan County, WA is \$452,300, and the homeownership rate is 74.1%. The prominent demograhic data is the SJ Island community is mostly caucasian, much older than the**

state average (55 compared to 37 for WA state), more educated than the state average, contains a significant number of ‘snowbirds’ and part-time residents, and with a significant number of retirees of above average means. Working younger residents frequently hold more than one job.

- Trail user numbers, demographics and modes – residents and visitors - see <https://www.sanjuanco.com/1391/San-Juan-Islands-Visitor-Study> for latest study of visitors
 - Current? **SJINHP date, Lime Kiln St Prk data, & SJC Land Bank data**
 - Potential future? **Hard to predict but demographics favor trail user numbers continuing to grow with retiree migration and a renewed emphasis on outdoor walking for health, both physically and mentally.** Road safety and collision data (involving walkers, bikers, other non-motorized activities) **SJCounty Public Works Dept – engineering; county engineer reports low fatality numbers in SJC; disqualifies for select WSDOT safety improvement grants.**
- Baseline mapping completed?
 - Public lands and facilities (e.g. schools, libraries, parks, natural areas . . .) **SJCounty GIS Dept - Polaris website on SJC Assessors’ website**
 - Planned and completed trail routes (SJI Trails Plan, County transportation/bike/ped plans)? Key connections to residential areas (recommended in the 2006 plan) **American Camp Trail, proposed Linde Park connection on north side FH to large Ld Bk property outside of town, (coming soon) Land Bank Zylstra Lake Preserve trails, Roche Harbor REsort and SaltChuck trail system adjacent to English Camp is private trail system open to the public, no overall connection of disparate trail systems into a ‘network’ of neighborhood connections. Most neighborhoods on shoreline; Old M. Rd Trail proposed down middle sections of SJI Island away from most neighborhoods.**
 - County roads and utility corridors, and inventory of r.o.w. widths? **SJCounty P. Wrks Dept. – Engineering; variable 45 to 60 feet**
 - Transit routes and stops? Circuit around island with stops at major attractions; anticipate new stops at trail-head entry points driven by demand; <https://www.sanjuantransit.com/hiking.html>
 - Known/assumed location of the historic old military road? **Yes, but road changed from original in 1850’s through 1870’s+/- as the county was settled and a road system developed. Spur trails off the original road further confuse what folks now associate with the title. Maps exist in several forms including the 1990 feasibility study maps labelled: II-1 Alternate Route and III-1 Site Analysis (Note: the proposed routes for trails are **NOT ones** yet considered or desired by the Committee ,but are excellent background information about the still-relevant characteristics of SJ Island and the original OMRd route.)**

- Preferred routes taken by walkers and bicyclists currently (and routes used/considered by trail committee members)? **Difficult to answer - unsure where to get verifiable and accurate data except from SJ County P. Wrks Dept. In general, bicyclists use routes from Friday Harbor major attractions and circumnavigation of island; SJC public works publishes bicycle routes based on existence of and width of road shoulders and island attractions.**
- Sensitive/critical areas, locations of threatened/endangered species? **Available from SJ County Dept of Community Development and SJC GIS dept maps.**
- Surveys: most recent results from recreation and transportation surveys of residents (County Parks and Health departments; Visitor survey; Public Works/Transportation planning?)? **<https://www.sanjuanco.com/1391/San-Juan-Islands-Visitor-Study>; SJI Trails Committee plan from 2006; SJINHP 15-20 year plan from 10/2008 <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=340&projectID=11187&documentID=24962>; County Parks 2017-22 plan from 11/2016 https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/10792/2016-11-08_CC_PTNA_NM_adopted?bidId=**

Partners, Stakeholders and Community Engagement

- Partnering with area Tribes
 - Who among your partners has established relationships with Tribes in the area? San Juan County Land Bank & SJC Preservation Trust re various parcels owned or conserved by them.
 - Cowichans (Vancouver Island) and what other tribes across the Salish Sea? **No relationship but contact with a tribal representative re any info about OMRT workers hired in 1850's to work on the OMRd. Note: local historians have not found a connection to any specific tribe for a trail existing before the location of the original OMRd which was built using the labor of indigenous workers from several tribes/areas. The Hudson Bay Co. paid for and built the original road. The Cowichan representative has orally reported that he knows of no existing written record about the OMRd.**
- Where do you have relationships with supportive private landowners who want to partner? **Yes, SaltChuck Properties is very supportive so far. Saltchuck owns ~~hundreds of~~ 1300-acres adjacent to English Camp and contains a spur road off the original OMRd.**
- Opponents are “not organizational,” so what negative concerns and critical interests have you heard about this, or other, trails? **One negative landowner to date. Past history with SJ Is trails reflects only sporadic opposition to trail use and development for some common reasons: NIMBY, general opposition to government taking private property ‘off’ the tax rolls and/or opposition to the use of public dollars for either tourism or passive recreation purposes.**
- SJI Parks & Rec District (Island Rec)

- We are interested in knowing more about the P&RD, and its role in planning, trails, programs, etc. **The SJ Island Park and Recreation District has supported the Trails Committee since 1999 and funded it annually for many years, but it has not taken an active role in trail creation since that committee is an educational and promotional endeavor. The SJ County Land Bank, Town of Friday Harbor, Port of Friday Harbor and the SJINHP of the NPS are the partners who worked to create the Amercian Camp Trail from Town to American Camp (6+ miles). Other trail development was on private land with easements or licenses with the SJC Land Bank or on public agency land owned by various local governments. The Island Rec Board does manage two trail systems in or adjacent to Friday Harbor on land it owns or controls: at Linde Park and at the former gravel pit above Jackson Beach just south of Friday Harbor. The Board of Commissioners of Island Rec does not wish to get into the trail business as a lead agency but rather as a support agency among several since its focus has been and will continue to be recreational programs funded by three six-yr renewable property tax levies: all sports programs at the FH High School, the recreation programs put on by Island Rec and the maintenance and operation of Linde Park (an urban sports field complex with many park amenities and a 3/4 mile long paved bike/walking trail around the perimeter.**
- You have a project website (www.oldmilitaryroadtrail.org) and how is it connected to the P&Rec District's public information system? **The website is new as of Dec. 2019 and still working out the links and connections, esp. for contributions/financial donations.**
- Does the District have norms for community engagement, or are there approaches used by other local jurisdictions that are models the community embraces? **Island Rec has not set protocol for community engagement, nor does the Land Bank or the Preservation Trust. However, all local agencies and private landowners wishing to gain community support promote and acknowledge the necessity of an open and transparent process with multiple avenues for community input. This is getting ever more challenging due to the different ways residents gain information about local events. No one media is very successful at getting up-to-date info out to interested parties. Getting folks to meetings is also a challenge. For the OMRT project, it is apparent the face-to-face contact will be important with local homeowner's associations, key private landowners, community groups, etc. in addition to local media outlets.**
- Partners, who is missing and you need to engage, and what do you need from them? **The critical partners are the SJ County Council, the Land Bank Commissioners, the SJ Preservation Board of Trustees, the San Juan Historical Society, the NPS through the SJ Is Nat. Historic Park and the SJ Is. Park and Recreation Board of Commissioners. They are likely to or already have endorsed the vision and proposal of exploring a new, a different OMRT to celebrate the original road and actually cover the same ground where practical. They have offered support in personnel and knowledge and are already incorporating the OMRT vision into some management plans for existing parcels under their control. Liaison support to the Committee is the first important step for the Land Bank, Preservation Trust and Historical Society.**

- Priorities (historical route vs. connectivity; resident vs. tourist uses; purpose, modes and skills of users, etc.) **The OMRT is primarily for local residents and for the celebration of a very distinctive and exciting history on SJ Island, a history that led to its peaceful settlement as an American community. It is not about developing tourism or the economy, but it is about learning about and respecting history as one also learns about the people, plants and animals that did and still make SJ Island an exceptionally beautiful place to hike and bike or ride a horse even. Tourists will come, the economy will respond but like most densely used national attractions, once away from the parking lot and without motorized transportation, in seasons wet and dark as well as bright and filled with blooms, the users will be mostly those who live here or who plan thoughtfully to enjoy the trail.**
- Name – was the road that connected the British and American camps called “the military road” or was it known in its time by another name? Is “Old Military Road” vernacular and is it commonly known and widely used? **The Old Military Road is the name used. No one uses any other, and the written historical record we understand to have only ONE reference by one settler to a tribal affiliation for reasons not clear from that journal/diary.**

Products and Roles

- The OMRT Trail Committee has a lot of experience with trails and planning, so what approaches do you want to use again on this effort and how does the project differ from other trail planning efforts? **No difference; long, hard, frustrating, expensive, etc. It is work, fun work however, work that truly leaves a legacy for each person involved and for all our children. ‘Social glue’ is necessary for the Committee and project to maintain momentum.**
- What do you envision for a “strategic plan” or “feasibility study”?
(Public participation? Conceptual and/or alternative routes? Access, parking and transit? Priorities?)
Strategic plan is critical. We only have an incipient goal of trying to get ‘feet on the ground’ very soon to demonstrate success and to open a new section of the trail by 2023 with some good luck.
- What is the Park District’s formal recommendation and adoption process? What other public plans will the final OMRT plan need to inform or supplement? **The Island Rec Board of Commissioners is unlikely to adopt the recommended final plan for the trail before either SJ County Council, the Land Bank Commissioners, or the SJ Preservation Trust Board considers adoption. We do not know how long it would take for the SJINHP to adopt the proposal and work it into its management plan beyond what was noted in the SJINHP 15-20 year plan from 10/2008. The OMRT plan will coordinate with and compliment County Parks—Parks, Trails, Natural Areas Plan for 2017-22 (created 11/2016) and summarized below in their vision for the future:**

2037 SJC Vision for Parks, Trails, Natural Areas and Non-motorized Transportation envisions an interconnected integrated system of parks, trails, natural areas and non-motorized transportation that provides easy access to the water and natural areas; facilitates safe, non-motorized travel throughout the community; celebrates island culture, character, and a healthy environment; and is delivered through well-funded, efficient county programs and innovative partnerships.