



REQUEST FOR DECISION

TO: Committee of the Whole **MEETING DATE:** June 25, 2025
FROM: Kerianne Poulsen, Corporate Officer
SUBJECT: Gibsons Paddle Club - Request for Canoe Storage on District Lands
FILE NO: 2380

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That a site assessment of the road right of way adjacent to the Delta Road beach access be initiated.
 - (2) That a notice of disposition be issued by the District of Sechelt for a portion of the road right of way adjacent to the Delta Road beach access to be used by the Gibsons Paddle Club for canoe storage for a five-year period with options to renew subject to the following conditions:
 - Any fencing or other structures on the property will be temporary, and removable with 24 hours notice;
 - The public walkway adjacent to the canoe storage area shall remain open to the public.
 - (3) That a report on the site assessment of the road right of way adjacent to the Delta Road beach access and comments received, be presented to Council prior to the approval of licence of occupation.
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PURPOSE

To direct staff to begin site investigations and public notification to assess use of a portion of a road right of way for use by Gibsons Paddle Club to store canoes.

OPTION

1. Direct staff to consider other location for the Gibsons Paddle Club Canoe storage.

DISCUSSION

Summary

The Sechelt branch of the Gibsons Paddle Club currently stores three outrigger canoes at a commercial property at 5718 Anchor Road. Their one year lease does not include an option to renew and the Paddle Club has requested a storage location on public property. The storage location needs to be near a suitable launch site for the canoes. Staff reviewed several options and a road right of way adjacent to the Delta Road Beach access may be suitable for the Paddle Club's needs.

Background

At the December 4, 2024, Regular Council meeting, the Paddle Club requested that the District provide public space to accommodate canoe storage and marine access for their Sechelt location.

During the meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

“Res. 2024-12A-02 That staff prepare a report on potential sites for the storage of Gibsons Paddle Club canoes on District lands.”

Staff met with representatives from the Paddle Club to identify elements that would be required for the Paddle Club to be able to safely store and launch their canoes and elements that would be preferred for the site. The following considerations were identified:

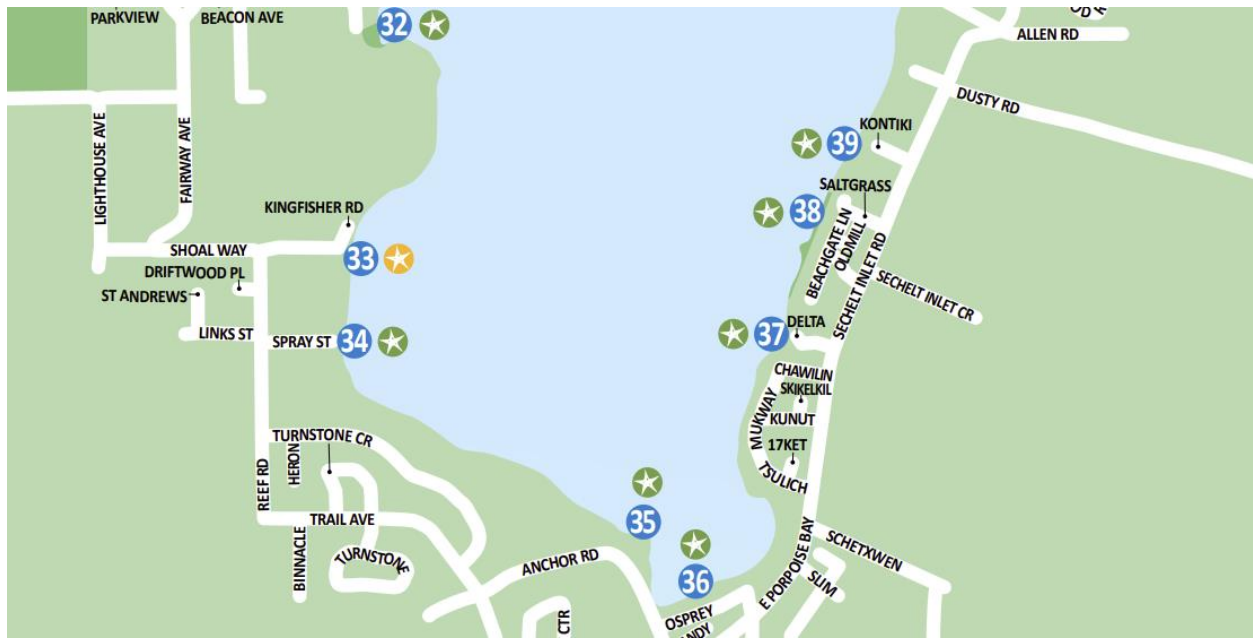
- Fairly level open space for storage of approximately 25' – 50'.
- A clear path to the shore to accommodate canoes to be transported on a cart or dolly with a wheelbase of approximately 24" – 36".
- A marine approach suitable for launching canoes from the hand carts – intertidal mudflats will not work.
- Close proximity to the Government Dock on Wharf Avenue, or other nearby location with high visibility for foot traffic and other traffic, to raise awareness of Paddle Club activities and help promote active lifestyles in Sechelt.
- Fencing, if a location is near downtown Sechelt.
- Adequate parking for up to 10 vehicles, two to three times per week.
- A location on Porpoise Bay is preferred to Trail Bay because it is more protected.

The Paddle Club informed staff that the Porpoise Bay Boat Launch/Parking lot, Osborne Park on Wharf Ave or any location within walking distance would be preferred or, alternatively, a beach access on Porpoise Bay. They do not consider Trail Bay to be a suitable location due to the more variable sea conditions.

Analysis

Staff considered several locations and conducted site visits of the following locations. Two locations were found to be potentially suitable for the Paddle Club's request. These are identified in the table below. For a full list of the locations considered, please refer to Attachment 1.

The numbering of the beach accesses on the following table corresponds to [the District of Sechelt Beach Access Guide](#) (Attachment 2).

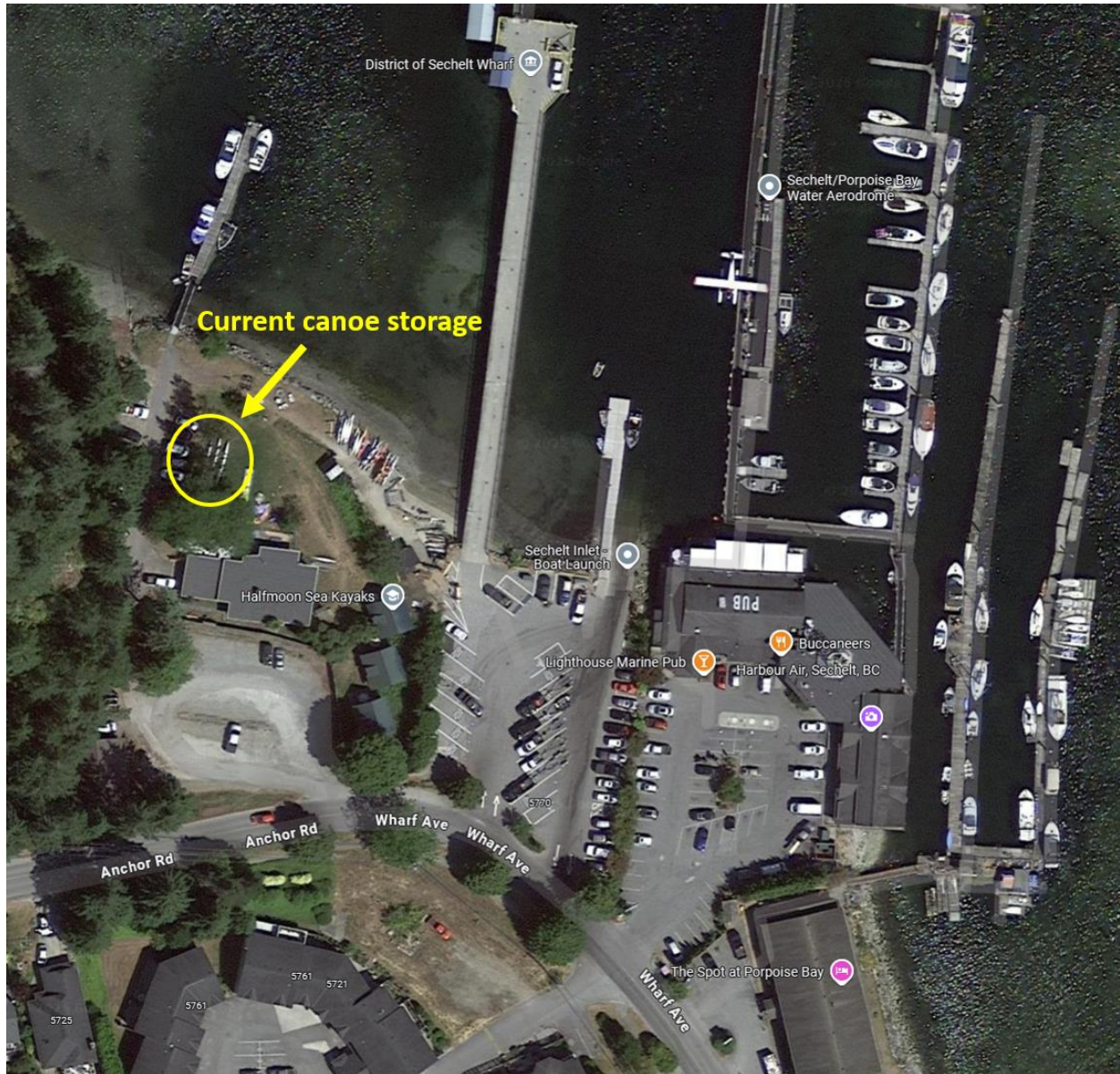


Sechelt Beach Access Guide

Location Name	Area EPB = East Porpoise Bay	Features/Limitations	Staff recommendation for canoe storage
36. Porpoise Bay Pier – commercial property	Downtown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is the current temporary storage location on commercial property (SCP 173 Investment Ltd) - Not available for permanent long term storage 	Yes
37. Delta – storage on District right of way	EPB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A paved area beside the public could make a suitable storage area, however a site assessment is needed to confirm any tree maintenance or other pruning that would be required. - Concrete barriers would need to be relocated 	Yes

Current Canoe Storage Location

The current location of the canoes provides convenient access to the launch location, nearby amenities and parking. The Paddle Club feels that being close to downtown in this commercial space is ideal for attracting new members and encouraging active lifestyles in Sechelt. The image below shows the canoes on a grassy area, however the actual storage location has been moved to the north and east of the yellow circle show on the image below.



Beach Access #36 – Porpoise Bay Pier

The Paddle Club has secured a one-year lease with the commercial property manager with no option to renew at this location. They have found that storage locations on private property have not provided a longstanding storage option as have had to relocate multiple times over the last few years.

Beach Access No. 37 Delta Road – Canoe storage on District property



Beach Access No. 37 Delta Road

The Delta Road Beach Access is adjacent to the Edgewater townhouse development and 5591 Delta Road, formerly the Blue Heron Restaurant. A paved area located on the District road right of way may make a suitable location for canoe storage.

The District beach access at Delta Road is not suitable for launching the canoes, however a short walk north in front of the townhouse complex provides a publicly accessible location where canoes can be wheeled to the beach. This is also a suitable location to launch.

Currently concrete barriers are in place, separating the paved pad from the public walking path. These barriers would need to be removed to allow the canoes to access to the storage location.

A formal assessment of the site is needed to ensure the location will be suitable for this purpose and to identify any specific actions that need to be taken to prepare the site for use by the Gibsons Paddle Club. Site preparation may include, but is not limited to:

- Tree assessment and preventative maintenance
- Trimming blackberry bushes and other growth
- Relocation of concrete barricades.

POLICY AND BYLAW IMPLICATIONS

None.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

1. Social Sustainability and Community Well Being
4. Arts and Culture

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs to the District will include staff time to conduct a site profile of the land and complete any site preparations or clean up.

COMMUNICATIONS

Before a Council disposes of land or improvements, it must publish notice of the proposed disposition in accordance with the Community Charter. This includes posting the notice for two consecutive weeks in the local paper.

Staff would contact adjacent property owners to ensure they were aware of the notice of disposition and how to provide comments to Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerianne Poulsen
Corporate Officer

Attachments:

1. 2025-02-14 Gibsons Paddle Club, Updated Follow Up Letter to the Sechelt Mayor and Council
2. Sechelt Beach Access Guide
3. Possible Canoe Storage Locations on District Property