

SOUTH PENDER LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

Our November Local Trust Committee meeting was held on Monday, November 16, rescheduled from November 10. We apologize to anyone who was inconvenienced by the change of day and date. At this meeting, we set the schedule of meetings for 2010. We will be meeting on Tuesdays (except for the Tuesday after Labour Day – we will meet on Wednesday, September 8 to avoid post-Labour Day ferry travel). The full schedule will be posted on the Trust website shortly: if you want to receive notification of meetings or other Trust information, please go to the website and sign up for our email service. You can also access full agenda packages for our Local Trust Committee meetings on the website about a week before each meeting. We have continued the practice of having a Town Hall session at the beginning of each meeting so that if you want to speak to any of the items on the agenda you are able to do so before the LTC considers the item in the business meeting. You are also welcome to provide comments to either of your Trustees in advance of the meeting, particularly if you are unable to attend.

Parks Canada Zoning

We reviewed in detail the staff report on proposed changes to zoning of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. These changes would cover both the marine and the land sections of the Park. Our intention is to zone the lands as National Park, but to ensure that the parks zoning will remain in place in the event of any changes to the National Park itself. At some point in the future we want to look at the classification of all of our parklands, but at this stage we have asked the planner to draft only the changes in zoning that apply to the National Park Reserve. These changes are necessary as our current zoning of many of the lands reflects their use, or possible use, prior to the establishment of the National Park Reserve.

Conery Crescent Subdivision

The planner has confirmed that the Ministry of Transportation is willing to waive the Land Title Act requirement for an ocean access road on these properties because of instability of the land. We were advised by staff that the MOT access can be based on what is necessary for a driving road; most of these ocean access areas on our island are in fact used as trails and have not been made into roads so the information was new to us and significant to our consideration of the application. The current OCP and the Parks Master Plan both call for an ocean park in this location so that the LTC, in the absence of an MOT ocean access, would like the park dedication to include some kind of ocean park. Therefore, the LTC referred the issue of parkland dedication back to the Applicant, requesting that an ocean viewpoint be created at the end of the trail from Boundary Pass Road and that the parkland dedication be no less than five percent of the proposed subdivision.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption

At our October meeting, we set Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation as the first work priority of the Local Trust Committee. This reordering of our priorities is as a result of the recommendation from Trust Council that all local Trust committees set Climate Change as a first priority in order to meet the requirements of provincial government Bill 27 regarding greenhouse gas emission reduction. We are required to amend our Official Community Plan by May 2010 to set out initiatives and establish targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases on South Pender Island. The Planner, Robert Kojima, has been working on this initiative for all of the Southern Gulf Islands. He presented a list of possible changes to our OCP for Climate Change Mitigation;

we have asked him to provide further information regarding Climate Change Adaptation, since it is the view of the Local Trust Committee that the two pieces should be considered together. The first list is available through the South Pender Island Trust Website and we welcome your comments and suggestions regarding what is appropriate action for our small island. A community information meeting on this subject will be scheduled in the new year.

High Speed Internet Access

After a burst of optimism last month, we had our hopes for high speed internet dashed once again. Shaw initially advised David Greer that they would apply for federal government funding which is available to provide high speed internet to rural communities. At the eleventh hour, they decided not to proceed with the application because of the tight timelines for submission. David will continue to pursue all possibilities and has set up a small working group to keep the issue alive and explore potential options. Anyone who wishes to participate in the working group or to receive periodic updates on progress on high-speed access for South Pender is welcome to contact David.

Road Conditions

Both David and Wendy attended a meeting in Langford with Mainroad Contracting – the company with the contract for maintaining our roads. Representatives from the provincial government, Mainroad, and the Southern Gulf Islands were there to discuss problems with our roads. As always, the issue is money – specifically the money allocated for road maintenance and for road upgrading on the islands. We also had some discussion of the ditches and roadside maintenance; Mainroad indicated an interest in hearing from our communities about these issues. It is clear that both the Ministry of Transportation and the contractor are well aware of the abysmal state of some of our South Pender roads, but at this point, no funds have been allocated for the kind of upgrading that is needed.

BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND FOR THE YEAR 2010!

Contact Your South Pender Trustee

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