

MARCH UPDATE

NB: This month's update includes not only the South Pender trustees' submission for the March issue of the Pender Post but also the agenda for the February 23, 2010, Local Trust Committee meeting, which considered how best to meet the LTC's obligation to amend the South Pender Official Community Plan to include targets and policies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Appended to the agenda are minutes of two meetings of the Advisory Planning Commission, to which the LTC delegated the task of recommending a course of action on the climate change issue. Also appended to the agenda is a summary of comments at a public meeting on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and consequences, hosted by the Islands Trust on February 6. The next meeting of the LTC is March 9 at 10 am at the Community Room at the South Pender fire hall.

SOUTH PENDER LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

OCP Review on the Horizon

British Columbia's Local Government Act defines an Official Community Plan as "a statement of objectives on planning and land use management, within the area covered by the plan, respecting the purposes of local government". As the name suggests, the plan is developed by the community and reflects community wishes about the shape of the future of the island and what kinds of activities should be encouraged and discouraged, although the OCP does not bind local government to proceed with any particular project specified in the plan. Once adopted as a bylaw, the OCP sets out the goals, objectives and policies of a jurisdiction, limited by the requirement to comply with higher level planning documents and the regulations of provincial and federal government agencies.

An OCP needs to be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect changes in the profile of the community as well as new and amended provincial laws that may have a bearing at the local level. An OCP review requires rigorous public consultation and typically occurs every five years.

It is not uncommon for OCP reviews to be delayed by limitations on resources, and such has been the case with South Pender's OCP, which was last reviewed in 2002. The next review of the OCP is expected to begin during the coming fiscal year (April 2010 to March 2011) with compilation of background information, with completion of the review scheduled for 2012.

Anyone wanting to have a look at the current OCP can find it on the Islands Trust website by clicking on "South Pender Island" and then clicking on "Planning Bylaws" in the right-hand column. This section also includes South Pender's Land Use Bylaw, which details specific regulations and requirements regarding the use and subdivision of private land. If you don't have access to the internet (or, heaven forbid, only have dial-up), you can obtain a printed version by calling the Islands Trust office in Victoria (250-405-5151) at a nominal cost of \$7 for the OCP or \$5 for the Land Use Bylaw.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The May deadline, under provincial law, for amending our Official Community Plan to include targets and policies aimed at reducing greenhouse emissions is fast approaching.

On Saturday February 6, Trust staff organized a public meeting, ably facilitated by planners Robert Kojima and Kaitlin Kazmierowski, to discuss the implications of and receive suggestions from the community for OCP amendments. The meeting was well attended (at least 25 people) and produced a wealth of innovative ideas. The Local Trust Committee has also benefited from

the recommendations of the Advisory Planning Commission, which was asked by the LTC to suggest how best to comply with the requirement to amend the OCP. If you would like to receive a copy of the detailed minutes of either of these meetings, please email one of your trustees. The information from the public meeting and the recommendations of the APC were considered by the LTC at their meeting on February 23. The next meeting of the LTC is on March 9 at 10 am.

2010-2011 Islands Trust Budget

Trust Council will meet on Hornby Island from March 23 – 25, and during its meetings will vote on the Trust budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The public was asked to provide input into the proposed budget by February 19. The Finance Committee will consider the input received and table a budget for the consideration of and adoption by Trust Council. Their recommendation will be available on the web. Please take the opportunity to read the information and contact your Trustees with your views on the budget proposal; the budget is the document that sets the amount of property tax collected on behalf of the Trust.

Islands Trust planner Andrea Pickard will be available at the Islands Trust office at Driftwood Centre, 11 am to 1 pm, on Monday March 15. If you would like to set a specific time to meet with Andrea or would like to arrange a site visit before 11am or after 1 pm, please call her at 1-250-405-5189 or email her at apickard@islandstrust.bc.ca.

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