

SOUTH PENDER LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

Our first meeting of the fall will begin at 10AM in the Community Room of the Firehall on Thursday, October 8. We expect to have a pretty full agenda. I have advance notice that the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Director will be coming. I'm not sure what topics will be addressed, but I hope that we can discuss some of the problems that we encountered with voting during the last election.

We expect to have the Parks and Recreation Commission represented at our meeting as we will be considering a proposal for parkland dedication resulting from the subdivision of land on Conery Crescent. My understanding at this point is that Parks and Recreation has recommended dedication in the form of a trail and that the applicant has made a proposal for a trail from Boundary Pass to Conery Crescent. Please attend the meeting or call one of your Trustees if you want more information or have any comments regarding this application.

As you will have seen in the North/South Pender submission, we will also be looking at Climate Change mitigation in order to satisfy the requirements of the provincial government Bill 27 regarding greenhouse gas emissions. We expect that by May 2010 we will need to make changes to the Official Community Plan to meet our obligations under this act.

One of the first priorities of our Work Program is to have a Build Out Analysis for South Pender so that we can be knowledgeable about where we might expect development in the future. Our planner, Andrea Pickard, has been working on the report and we hope to have a first look at it at this meeting. We were also advised at the Trust Council meeting that ecosystem mapping work should be available soon. We will need assistance from the community to determine the accuracy of this work as it is aerial mapping and needs to be verified on the ground. The planners have told us that community open houses will be held, likely in November, but even outside of the meetings, any and all input will be welcome. More on this as we are advised.

Andrea Pickard will be having office hours in the Trust Office in the Driftwood: she plans to be in the office on alternate Mondays so that if you have something that you would like to discuss with our planner you won't need to make a trip to Victoria. Please email apickard@islandstrust.bc.ca if you want to confirm her hours on Pender and to make an appointment to see her.

We did manage to have one of the goals of the current Trust Council include the need to use plain language. We will continue to work on this matter as we both feel that it is important that when you receive correspondence from the Trust that it is easy to understand.

We hope to see you at our October meeting. If you would like a copy of the agenda package in advance of the meeting, please contact one of your Trustees. If you would like to have input into an issue, but are unable to attend, please email either one of us with your comments.

September Trust Council

The regular quarterly meeting of the Islands Trust Council was held on Mayne Island from September 15 -17. The Council met in the Agricultural Hall and had an opportunity at the end of day one to visit the Mayne Museum. We went to the Japanese Garden for our lunch break on Wednesday; it was pouring rain when we arrived but after we had a sandwich lunch in the

covered pavilion, we went out into the garden under clear skies. The garden is the result of donations of time and money by a large number of volunteers and is a beautiful tribute to the many Japanese who were a vibrant part of the Mayne Island community until their removal in 1942. Trustees had a look at the Mighty E Truck, the first NZEV in the Trust Area to be issued a permit by the Ministry of Transport.

Strategic Plan

The Council approved the Strategic Plan for the 2008-2011 term of office. Work on this document began at the first meeting of this Council in December 2008. It is a difficult task to compile and prioritize the goals and strategies as we are a diverse group of individuals representing islands that range from very small to very large, from very rural to islands in close proximity to an urban area. You can review the Strategic Plan on the Islands Trust website soon.

Climate Change

In September 2007, the Trust signed on to the BC Climate Action Charter which committed us to develop strategies and take action to address issues associated with climate change. In May 2008, the provincial government passed Bill 27: Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act. This Act requires that all Official Community Plans must be amended to include targets for the reduction of green house gas emissions and outline actions to be undertaken to achieve those targets. Trust staff produced a comprehensive Guide to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Islands Trust Area. There were a number of presentations to Council on the subject, followed by team meetings to discuss implementation in the Trust area. Trust Council passed a resolution recommending that all Local Trust Committees amend their work programs to make compliance with Bill 27 a top priority.

Affordable Housing

The Community Housing Task Force provided a report to Council on their work to date. The Task Force was set up as a subcommittee of the Local Planning Committee with a final report due in March 2010. The Task Force has outlined the scope of the work that they will undertake. They expect to develop a Tool Kit for Local Trust Committees which will provide information, options, guidance and access to resources to assist in addressing affordable housing issues. The Task Force will also address the issue of seniors' housing in the Trust area.

Other Business

Council passed a resolution recommending that Local Trust Committees consider adding a policy to their OCPs requiring all marinas applying for a rezoning or a development permit to provide pump out facilities. North Pender OCP already has a section regarding marine pump out services. Council, by resolution, requested that the Local Planning committee consider developing model permissive regulations for green infrastructure and for developments that involve energy efficiency, small –scale renewable energy generation and rainwater capture and storage.

The Council discussed and passed some amendments to Islands Trust Policies to promote decision-making processes that reflect principles of administrative fairness; other policy amendments were referred back to committee for further work. We also passed an amendment to allow for electronic meetings and to allow individuals to attend meetings electronically, rather than in person.

As always, it was a full agenda. Trustees came prepared to cover a great deal of material in the two days of meetings and, with some coaching by the chair, were able to meet expectations. It is certainly helpful for Trustees to have the opportunity to discuss issues informally and to share approaches, ideas, and frustrations.

