

January 4, 2014 meeting at Hope Bay

It was standing room only at the January 4th meeting of South Pender Island residents and their local Trustees. The Hope Bay Studio venue came close to accommodating the roughly 56 attendees, although we ran out of chairs at 50. In addition to the large turn-out, a total of 17 letters were sent by those who could not attend. These letters will be included in the agenda package for the upcoming LTC business meeting on February 11th. The agenda package will be posted to the Islands Trust website at the South Pender home page in advance of the meeting.

The January 4th meeting was called to allow residents and property-owners an opportunity to weigh in with their local representatives before any next steps are taken on the land use bylaw review process and draft proposal.

After an extended discussion of the type of process needed to produce a land use bylaw (LUB) that reflects our community's needs and goals, meeting participants urged Trustees Montague and Jones to pass a motion to set aside the current draft of the amended bylaw, identified as Bylaw 111, to undertake a holistic, comprehensive bylaw review that ensures effective community involvement and participation, and to create a project charter which outlines the scope, the process and timelines for this review. Some of the proposed bylaw amendments from defeated Bylaw 111 could potentially be included in the new draft, since several have already been shaped by community feedback.

Follow-up on the January 4th meeting will be a major business item at the upcoming local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting on February 11, 2014 at 10 AM at the South Pender Fire Hall on Gowlland Point Road. We hope you will join us for this important meeting.

Boat speeds at the Canal:

Last Summer, concerns were raised by South Pender residents about excessive boat speeds at the canal between North and South Pender. Speeds in excess of the 5 knot limit contribute to erosion of the shoreline, including valuable Xelisen archaeological site and middens, and endanger kayakers and others using non-motorized vessels. A meeting is set for January 23rd, 2014 to develop an effective speed enforcement plan. The meeting will include representatives from Islands Trust, North and South Pender local Trustees, RCMP, Transport Canada,

Parks Canada and CRD, since all of these entities have interests and areas of responsibility related to the canal. A report on the outcomes of this meeting will be available at the February 11th LTC meeting.

The BC Ferries file:

Islands Trust Council maintains its energetic advocacy regarding continuing problems with BC Ferries for ferry-affected communities. Following decisions made at December's Trust Council, Chair Sheila Malcolmson sent a letter to Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, outlining seven key areas of concern. This letter is posted at the home page of the Islands Trust website under "What's New?"

Please contact us with your concerns, comments and questions.
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