

The Local trust committee met on November 27th. The major item of business was the rezoning application for the Oceanwood property. The applicant has requested 37 units for supportive seniors housing. Following a community information meeting held in April, a request was made by attendees that a needs survey be completed prior to proceeding with this application. The applicant agreed to this and local consultant, Carol Munro, was hired to complete the study. The applicant and the Islands Trust Planner worked with the consultant to create the specific wording of this survey.

The survey was sent to all Mayne Island property owners; in all, 1,548 surveys went out, and 390 replies were received. The responses were equally divided between permanent residents and non permanent residents. The responses indicated that there was a low interest in the proposed facility, perhaps up to 14 people over the next 10 years.

Carol Munro's report, including data from the survey, resourced a great deal of additional information about the Island community from past survey's, and from service providers, as well as information about provincial options for seniors, and national trends in housing for seniors. Both the survey and staff report are available online at the Islands Trust website, or please contact Brian or Jeanine if you have any questions.

Responding to the survey information and the concerns and suggestions received at the Public Information meeting, the Local Trust Committee passed the following motion:

"the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee requests the applicant of file MA-RZ-2012.1 (Oceanwood) revise the proposal by reducing the number of units being proposed."

During the discussion of the motion, Trustees suggested the applicant look at other segments of the population to widen the potential residential use and so increase the client mix in order to not isolate older seniors by providing housing for a limited age group. Another concern was the urban look of the project, with three, two story apartments clustered in a small area and requiring power dependent elevators. The suggestion was also made to make the project environmentally sustainable, in character with the rural nature of our community, and to address the always important issues of water conservation in view of the proposed increases in density. Water usage concerns have been expressed by the Village Point Improvement District, as their 243 water users have one of the systems wells near the boundary of the Oceanwood property.

Other business items discussed were a clarification of what a fallow deer eradication plan would look like. Planner Gary Richardson has been requested to draft a request for proposals, in order to retain a consultant to create the plan. The Trust Committee and community members will work with the consultant. This will be a planning document to be used by the community and senior levels of government to insure policies and actions are in place to accomplish the eradication of the invasive fallow deer species from our Island ecosystem.

Your Trustees also attended the Islands Trust Council quarterly meeting the first week of December, this three day gathering of the 26 members of the Islands Trust is an opportunity to look at policies and direction for the Trust area as a whole. One of many interesting items on our agenda was the Economic Sustainability workshop. This was an opportunity for regional districts who have the responsibility for economic development in the Trust area, to share information on programs. This workshop was attended by representatives from throughout the Trust area, Regional Directors, MLA's, Chambers of Commerce and others involved with economic development projects. The Trust area is part of some 7 different Regional Districts. Increasingly the Trust area is struggling with a loss of younger members of the population and a lack of job opportunities. The San Juan Economic Development Council also made a presentation, many of the issue facing the Trust area are similar to San Juan County.

A reminder: Islands Trust Chair Sheila Malcolmson will make a presentation on tanker traffic and oil spill response, January 10th, 7:30 at the Agricultural Hall.

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