

MI LTC Report

The MI LTC did not meet during our hot Mexican August but made up for that in September.

On 9th, 10th, & 11th of September, I attended the last Trust Council for this term on lovely Keats & Gambier Islands in Howe Sound. We had excellent council sessions and were pleased to note that the Trust finances were very close to this year's budget. In addition to routine reports, we addressed a revised policy on "Resolutions without Meetings." This municipal tool allows us to "meet" electronically and vote on non-contentious issues. Given the challenges of getting everyone together, this is very useful.

A decision was also made regarding the boundaries of the Islands Trust Area. The Islands Trust boards 6 regional districts plus Metro Vancouver. Given that the IT is responsible 'to protect coastal and marine ecosystems' and 'advocate for protection of the Salish Sea and Howe Sound,' it was necessary to 'clarify jurisdictional issues.' Further discussion with regional districts is anticipated.

Another challenging area is the extensive advocacy that Trust Council undertakes each year. As CAO Linda Adams reported, "It is challenging for any organization to design an effective work program that is proactive... without knowing what opportunities or threats will emerge." What we do know is that "advocacy has become a much bigger focus for Trust Council over the last decade, as government funding has been dropping... for services such as BC Ferries and Coast Guard while resource extraction and shipping has been increasing." Currently, Trust Council has 21 active advocacy projects. This has led to a policy for assessing whether a proposed advocacy project fits with IT Policy, plus a new Decision Making Framework for assessing the cost and efficacy of advocacy topics. During these discussions, the Union of BC Municipalities, to which the Islands Trust belongs, released its Policy Paper on Socioeconomic Impacts of Ferry Fare Increases indicating \$2.3 billion losses to the provincial economy. This report is available from the IT website or directly from Jeanine or myself.

On 20th Sept a special meeting of the LTC was held and the Oceanwood application received its first reading to rezone for combined tourist accommodation, senior and residential rental units.

Then followed a discussion about the CRD ETGI Draft Cycling and Pedestrian Trail Plan. This had been forwarded to the Islands Trust for comment and a well prepared response was provided by SGI Regional Planning Manager, Robert Kojima. Robert's principal point focused on the CRD publishing theoretical trails across private land as potential. This had been strongly opposed by the MI Path & Trails Association, but had been included anyway. The Islands Trust response was publicly discussed and endorsed by invited members of the MI P&TA and subsequently approved by the LTC for referral back to the CRD.

The Mayne Island Fallow Deer Committee met on September 15 with Ministry of Environment staff Sean Pendergast, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Helen Schwantje, Provincial Veterinarian as well as Chris Gill from Coastal Conservation who were involved in the Sidney Island project.

This meeting had been requested almost a year ago following the final community meetings on

the Fallow Deer problem. Having waited a year we finally had a chance to cover many topics with the Ministry. Of particular concern to the committee was the way in which hunting permits are issued and the need to increase the number of Hunters actually on the ground. After completion of the three hour meeting there was general agreement that a regular communication commitment had to be made by the Ministry, an agreement that more hunters are needed as well as a request that the Fallow Deer Committee be involved in the recommendations of permitted hunters. A community fallow deer information meeting later took place September 27th where many more issues were discussed.

Given that an election is scheduled for mid-November, the LTC felt that holding a regular meeting in late October would be inappropriate. The LTC therefore approved the cancellation of this next scheduled meeting.

The next regular meeting of the MI LTC will be held on Wednesday 26th November, 1:00pm at the Agricultural Hall.

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