

Mayne Island LTC Report

At our last meeting in February, Chair Grams was away on personal business so the meeting was chaired by Brian, and as there were no contentious issues, he did not have quell any riots.

A variance was given for a deck to Hollingshead on Mariners Way that closer matches those of four other neighbouring properties. Planner Gary Richardson outlined a revised Mayne Island land use bylaw for Waste Transfer Facilities to be permitted in designated industrial zones. We have three such zones on Mayne, all of them on Fernhill Road. As requested at the January meeting, Gary also presented a draft brochure to describe the newly approved bylaw permitting secondary suites in some areas. This brochure will be available to anyone and distributed to real estate agents, contractors and the CRD building dept.

The Local Trust Committee also received a report from Planner Richardson March 31st regarding our planning process around Fallow Deer. A more extensive report will be placed in the May issue of the Mayneliner. See below

Our big item this month was Trust Council on Gabriola Island where we had several excellent in-depth discussions concerning area wide issues and the province as a whole. At our first session, a spokesperson from the Ministry of Community Affairs, outlined plans by Victoria to standardize more services including those provided by regional districts and municipalities. One of these that will affect us is the building code. When asked if there could be local or regional variations, the reply was a standard response: there will be an opportunity to participate. We listened to several delegations including an impassioned plea from John Tylee of Saltspring Island for greater collaboration over climate change, economic development and stronger advocacy with BC Ferries. The first two are handled at the local level and Trust Council has a long history of advocacy over ferry service.

Another advocacy issue was a presentation to support David Suzuki's Blue Dot initiative for the right to a healthy environment. This called on the Province to enact a bill of rights for clean air, clean water and safe uncontaminated food. This was approved.

A very lengthy discussion followed a motion to hire to an Aboriginal Expert. In the end this was defeated with a new approval to create a \$50,000 budget for more collaboration with 1st Nations at the local trust committee level. The Islands Trust shares boundaries with 31 First Nation groups, more than any other region in the country.

The Saltspring Island Commission to examine incorporation also came in for a lengthy debate which has led to a discussion about the IT Policy and the Strategic Plan. This is a slow ongoing process for this year and the new council appears to have a desire to get back to basics and re-address the core issues in the light of changing demographics and community economics.

The budget also received a lot of attention. There is no proposed tax increase but the budget is bigger than last year due to increased development and changing property values that would offset increasing operational costs.

The Community Stewardship Awards have been expanded in scope and set for alternating years starting this year. Islanders are urged to identify community leaders who make the islands a better place to live.

Nominations close on 15th April.

The Fallow Deer committee met on March 16th in Victoria, the meeting was hosted by Sean Pendergast, Senior Wildlife Biologist. Attendees were from the Ministry of the Environment, CRD Planning Department, Islands Trust Planners, Paul LeBlond on behalf of David Howe our CRD Director, Jeanine Dodds Islands Trust Trustee, Helen Schwantje, Provincial Vet and members of the Deer Committee. This meeting marked a significant change in the focus of the Fallow Deer issue, from local to regional. The committee were very excited by the recognition that this problem goes beyond our community as do potential solutions.

Hope everyone can get out and enjoy our very early spring.

The next LTC meeting is 1:00pm at the Ag Hall on 27th April.

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