

Mayne Island Local Trust Committee Report

After a slow start to this term, the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee now has several applications. We held a Community Information meeting for the CRD Anson Road Dock application on the 15th November with a presentation and representation by the MI Harbours Commissioner. Planner Richardson will present his recommendations at the next meeting on the 30th November. Two new applications for variances on house height and setback will also be discussed on the 30th.

Trust Council gathers again in early December where we will meet our new CAO Russ Hotsenpiller who is due to take the helm in January. In addition to staff reports, budgets and so on, Council will also consider a new Policy Statement review. Policies are the guidelines used by staff and other agencies to determine how Local Trust Committees and Trust Council serve to support island communities and conform to provincial law. While the basic mandate does not change, many things around the islands such as economics, ferries, demographics and provincial politics, do change considerably. A substantial review of critical policies has not been done for many years and there is a real need to make them more relevant and useful. As a member of the Trust Planning Committee, I have been involved in this preliminary discussion. Some of the critical items may include Community Sustainability Plans, transportation, housing, fresh water, an aging population, oil spill response, a 25 year vision and so on. Besides the thirteen island groups, the IT will have to negotiate with six provincial ministries, eight regional districts and thirty one First Nations. If approved, this project is expected to take three years to complete.

Advocacy (influencing or co-operating with other government and non-government agencies) is a program that has grown exponentially over the past few years as senior government funding has dropped and services have been challenged. Advocacy now occupies 60% of the Policy Analyst's time at the cost of other Trust Area Services. During the last term, council created an Advocacy Policy which allowed staff to evaluate the efficacy of requests in terms of impact and success. This is now being further reviewed for efficiencies as the increased demand for both advocacy and services places a severe strain on staff.

Trust Council runs from the 8th - 10th December in Victoria and is open to the public. In advance of the festive season, the next MI LTC meeting is Monday 30th November, 1:00pm at the Agricultural Hall.

Brian Crumblehulme, 250 539 3027, bcrumblehulme@islandstrust.bc.ca
Jeanine Dodds, 250 539 2411, jdodds@islandstrust.bc.ca