

LTC Survey Result

Over the last couple of months, our Planner, Gary Richardson, organized a survey on issues that the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee is trying to address. 79 people responded with a wide range of comments, so we thought it might be of interest to try and summarize these results. Quite a few people had “no comment” on some questions or were not aware of the issues.

- To the question of **Commercial Land Use Review**, 63% thought this was a good or reasonable project while 21% stated there should be no further commercial development.
- Regarding **Short Term Vacation Rentals**, 34% were in favour and 14% against.
- The **Fallow Deer Management Plan** generated very strong opinions with 62% in favour and 2% opposed
- In order of priority, respondents placed **Fallow Deer** first with **Commercial Land Review** second, followed by **Pathways**, **STVR's** and **Community Docks**. **Ferry** scheduling, **fresh water** systems and **affordable housing** each received 2-3 comments in support
- Other suggestions included more effort on **Ferries**, **Roads** and better **Communication**

Gary also asked **where you live?**

Of all the respondents, 21% were full time residents. 36% were regular part-time, and 43% were visitors. This suggests that part time islanders and visitors care very much how this island is managed.

Preferred **Communication** fell into two camps with responders choosing more than one medium. Almost half (49%) preferred the Mayneliner and email, with about 30% preferring the Islands Trust Website and/or traditional postal service. Informal communication by word-of-mouth, and conversation came in for a further 76%, while direct meeting attendance registered 10%.

To the question, is the **LTC doing enough?** About 50% said yes to most questions, and about 10% thought no. On **Senior's Housing** and **Affordable Housing** the LTC rated an 18% satisfaction rating against a 50% not enough! About half the respondents admitted to not knowing enough about the issues. Under the general heading **Other Comments**, several new topics appeared, including:

- Fallow Deer – we get the point
- Protecting plants and trees
- BC Ferries
- A request to create a new tax to support more projects (I'm not making this up!)
- More Trails and Pathways
- And protection against shoreline erosion

The LTC will take all these comments into serious consideration. However, the survey also revealed some confusion about our role as a local government that begs some comment.

- All land use decisions pertaining to Mayne are made by the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee. That is the three people (Jeanine & I, plus chair George Grams of SSI) elected during the provincial civic elections. These decisions made by the LTC are subject to formal public hearing and information meetings and open commentary, as per the Local Government Act. The LTC also meet with local community organizations, the CRD Director, MLA and MP.
- The Island Trust Council is made up of all 26 island trustees from the 13 island groups. Council makes decisions about budgeting, policy, advocacy, the operation of trust services and so forth. Council does not intervene in local island issues. Council also works directly with the provincial and federal governments, 7 regional districts, 31 First Nations, all the municipalities bordering the Islands Trust Area and many advocacy groups.
- The operations and ticket cost of BC Ferries is a regional issue and outside the capacity of the LTC. Trust Council, by contrast, has spent considerable time and tax dollars advocating and responding to

both the BC Ferries and the Ministry of Transportation. You can read about this on-line at the IT web-site.

- Roads come under the provincial Ministry of Highways. The LTC does communicate and lobby for better roads and we meet with them once a year, usually in spring.
- The Fallow Deer are a feral invasive species originally licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture and now the responsibility of the Ministry of Lands, Forests and Natural Resources. Both ministries have been reluctant to intervene, so this has been a very frustrating exercise. Last year a collaborative effort between the MI Residents & Ratepayers Association and the MI Conservancy, resulted in three well attended public meetings and the creation of the Fallow Deer Committee. The LTC fully supports this initiative and Jeanine is an active member of that committee.
- The operation of the Community Docks are the jurisdiction of the Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission, itself a department of the CRD. Only now, with the application for a new community dock at Anson Road, Horton Bay, can we debate and decide at the local level just what we as a community need in marine services.
- Trails (those that cross the land) are made by MI Parks & Recreation where they cross parkland. And elsewhere by the recently formed MI Path and Trail Association, of which I am a director.
- Pathways (those that more or less follow a road) require Ministry of Highways approval plus a registered body to assume liability. The recently surveyed Village Bay/Miners Bay Pathway, was initiated by the MI Economic Development Committee (which I chaired) and is now a collaborative effort between the MIPATA and the CRD. The contract for construction was recently awarded to H.Y. Engineering, a business with a Mayne Island connection.
- Senior's and Affordable Housing are capital projects that must be undertaken by private enterprise or the regional district. The LTC is responsible for zoning property for these types of uses and currently 2 properties are zoned for Senior Friendly housing. Secondary suites were recently added as a permitted use in many areas on the Island as a form of affordable housing. Cottages also are permitted on many properties and can be used as affordable housing.
- Protecting trees and plants is essentially a private matter by individual landowners. However, the Islands Trust Fund Board does have an active interest in protecting sensitive ecological areas by volunteer covenant and through acquisition, often in co-operation with a local Conservancy. Mayne Island has one small parcel of protected land. Anyone wishing to know more about the Trust Fund Board may talk to the local trustees, Trust Fund Board Member Derek Atha, or by going on-line through the IT web-site.
- Shoreline protection: the Islands Trust has some excellent literature on this and there are people available to give workshops if need be. A brochure on shoreline protection was sent out to all waterfront land owners earlier this year by the MI LTC.

Very many thanks to all those that contributed thoughts to this survey, I hope you find the replies interesting and useful. Please relate questions and comments to Jeanine or me at any time, or better still, join us for an open Town Hall session held with every Local Trust Committee Meeting on the last Monday of each month starting at 1:00pm.at the Agricultural Hall.

Regards,
Brian

As this was going to press:

Jeanine & I have just returned from the December Trust Council where, among other things, next year's Budget was debated. This will be posted on the IT Website from January 15 through February 17 for your comment before it is sent to Council for final approval in March.

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