



Gabriola Local Trust Committee Bulletin

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STEEP SLOPES DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA PROJECT DEFERRED INDEFINITELY

At its February 21 meeting, the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee responded to recent public input and made a decision to defer the steep slopes development permit area project until more urgent topics identified in the Gabriola Official Community Plan review are complete, and until there's a budget to review the draft regulations, consult with landowners and engage professionals to provide accurate mapping.

"Working through the steep slope mapping challenges and bylaw drafting was going to take more time than I'd ever imagined" said Sheila Malcolmson, Gabriola Island local trustee. "I'm glad that, with the removal of the steep slopes topic, the Local Trust Committee can focus on its other priorities: 1) using development permit areas to protect potential fish habitat, 2) technical fixes to park zoning, 3) amending bylaws to support farming and farmers, and 4) implementing climate change policies into the Land Use Bylaw."

The resolution to defer the steep slopes development permit area project followed a mail-out to affected property owners and a subsequent community information meeting attended by approximately 200 people. During the consultation process, significant concern was expressed by community members on the extent and implications of the draft regulations.

"Thank you for taking the time to express your views verbally and in writing" said Gisele Rudischer, also a local trustee. "You spoke loudly and clearly and we heard you."

The need to review and update existing mapping and guidelines for hazardous slope areas arose during the 2009/2010 review of the Gabriola Official Community Plan when a number of deficiencies were identified with the guidelines and mapping for current Development Permit Area 6 – Escarpment Areas, in place since 1998. With the deferral of this project, the existing mapping and regulations will continue to apply.

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