



Islands Trust

Gambier Island Local Trustee Newsletter February 2012 – Issue 1

Welcome to our first newsletter of our term and welcome to newly elected Local Trustee Kate-Louise Stamford and new Gambier Local Trust Committee Chair David Graham. David has lived on Denman Island with his wife and children for over 20 years, and is bringing his skills and experience as a third term trustee to the position. As we move through this term please feel free to forward topics or questions that would be suitable to address in this newsletter format, to myself or Trustee Stamford. Both Kate and I will be taking turns publishing the newsletters. Below, please note the request for public input for consideration under the headings: **Annual Budget** (noon, March 1st deadline), and **Proposed Policy Statement Review** (noon, March 5th deadline). All the best for 2012! Sincerely, Jan

Local Trust Committee Meeting

January 31, 2012 in Gibsons was the location of our first Local Trust Committee meeting where several Gambier Trust Area community members, Trustee Kate-Louise Stamford, Trustee Jan Hagedorn, Chair David Graham from Denman Island, Regional Planning Manager Chris Jackson, Island Planner Sonja Zupanec and recorder Diane Corbet were in attendance to start this new three-year term.

At this meeting Trustees reviewed an application for a Development Variance Permit Cotton Bay, Gambier Island; Rezoning Application, Camp Fircom, Gambier Island; and Rezoning Application for marine waters adjacent to Thunderbird Yacht Club, Gambier Island.

Trustees also discussed the Work Program and Top Priorities list. This list directs the work of staff on community issues. The Associated Islands Land Use Bylaw review and Foreshore Stewardship were considered high priorities. Goals of the Local Trust Committee can be superseded by Provincial requirements and in this term the *Riparian Areas Regulation* (RAR) have become the Local Trust Committee's third top priority. The RAR must be incorporated into our bylaws and enacting these regulations and educating the community about them will be a term-long project.

Trustees requested that the Bylaw Officer provide constituents with an opportunity to review the Proposed Administration Bylaw Enforcement Notification program through a mail out. This will allow people to give feedback and have their concerns addressed around this proposed administrative bylaw.

Next Local Trust Committee Business Meeting

Thursday, March 1, 2012st

Eric Cardinal Hall

(930 Chamberlin Road West Howe Sound)

Beginning at 10:30 a.m. – official agenda to follow

Delegations are welcome and there is a town hall session early on in the agenda.

Communications

Communicating with your Gambier Local Trust Committee or Trust Council as a whole is the most effective way to be sure your concerns are heard. Also please feel free to contact one (or both) of your local trustees with questions or suggestions or attend the next Local Trust Committee Meeting on March 1 (see previous item).

Meetings Notification Service

Sign up to receive notices of meeting and public hearings in your Local Trust Committee Area. Islands Trust will send you an email with the meeting information once a meeting has been posted to our site and a reminder seven days prior to the meeting, if you choose that option. Sign up here:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltr/gm/meetings.cfm?&intMode=2>

Annual Budget

What do you think of this year's budget proposal with a 0.7% property tax increase? Has the right balance been struck between the need for services and the need to keep taxes in line?

If you want to provide input to be considered by Trust Council at its March 6-8 meeting, submissions will be accepted **until NOON Thursday, March 1st**. You can make your comments in one of the ways listed below:

By email at budget2012@islandstrust.bc.ca

By mail or fax:

Budget 2012 Islands Trust Council Attention: Treasurer
200 – 1627 Fort Street Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8

FAX: (250) 405-5155

Derelict Vessels

Thanks to those that sent information about derelict vessels in the Gambier Trust Area. This information has been sent to Islands Trust staff. Local governments are requesting clarity from senior government about authority and responsibility.

Islands Trust Proposed Policy Statement Review

The Islands Trust has been granted \$250,000 through Canada's Gas Tax Fund to undertake a public review of its Policy Statement, a document which lays the foundation for all the principles, decisions and policies for preserving and protecting the unique amenities and environment of the Islands Trust Area. The acceptance of this grant will be a decision item at the next Trust Council meeting March 6-8th on Gabriola Island. More information about the proposed policy statement review will be available on the Islands Trust web site after February 16. We welcome your input. If you have comments please e-mail policyreview@islandstrust.bc.ca.

All comments received by **Noon, March 5** will be submitted to Trust Council for consideration at its March quarterly meeting.

Explore Your Island with Map IT

A new web page is the gateway to Map Islands Trust (Map IT) - your island information web map. These applications provide public access to ecological, property and other valuable mapping information maintained within the Islands Trust Geographic Information System (GIS). Go to:
<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/lup/map/default.cfm>

What is the Role of the Advisory Planning Commission?

An Advisory Planning Commission (APC) is appointed from volunteers in the community to provide feedback about planning issues in the Local Trust Area. The Commission consists of up to nine individuals of which at least two thirds are residents of the Trust area. This structure is governed by the *Local Government Act*. Go to:
<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/gm/pdf/gmbylbaseadmapc0113.pdf>

Members are selected by the Local Trustees who take into consideration a broad range of backgrounds and geographical representation as well as potential interest in upcoming projects such as the Associated Islands Land Use Bylaws. The general concept of an Advisory Planning Commission is to provide a snapshot representation of citizens in a given community.

Advisory commissions are different from community groups in that they have legal standing, must meet in public and have minutes taken. The Local Trust Committee can refer a variety of subjects to an APC including Official Community Plan drafts, Land Use Bylaw drafts, re-zoning applications and a variety of other planning issues that the Trustees want to get a broader community perspective on.

It is important to note that the Commission's role is *advisory* and that the Local Trustees are not required to act on the resolutions or recommendations of the APC. Decisions at the local trust committee level are made from a variety of inputs including individuals, community groups and Islands Trust staff. The recommendations of an APC are one of several important sources of feedback on a particular issue.

We look forward to announcing the Advisory Planning Commission members representing Keats, Gambier and the Associated Islands in March.

Contact your Local Trust Committee:



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