

South Pender Local Trust Committee

The Local Trust Committee met on January 11 – the first meeting of 2011. The agenda for the meeting was to review the Official Community Plan to identify areas of the OCP that need to be updated. We began the meeting with a Town Hall session to provide an opportunity for members of our community to raise any issues that need to be changed, added or eliminated in the upcoming review. We were very pleased that members of the public participated and that most of the members of the Advisory Planning Commission for South Pender were able to attend the meeting and provide their input.

The first issue that was discussed was that the plan will need to have corrections made to some names (like the South Pender Fire Department) and to the population and other statistics. The Local Trust Committee passed a resolution directing staff to complete a “technical review” of the current OCP to correct factual information in the plan. When this work is complete, the draft will come back to the Local Trust Committee for their review. In some cases, the LTC may decide to simply make the substitution to the correct information, but the review is also an opportunity to recraft the OCP, which may mean eliminating some information or providing it in a different manner. We are optimistic that the staff review will be completed this spring.

There was further discussion of some of the substantive changes that should be considered in the review. We did talk about ensuring that the Official Community Plan does not include regulations that more properly belong in the Land Use Bylaw. The LTC, along with the members of the public attending the meeting, discussed some options to involve the broader community in formulating a vision for South Pender.

The proposed budget for 2011-12 that was tabled at the Trust Council meeting in December does not include any monies for the South Pender Official Community Plan review. The draft has gone back to the Finance Committee to make adjustments based on discussions at the Trust Council table. We would urge members of our community to review the budget proposal – it will be available on the Islands Trust website – and provide feedback. There will be a mechanism on the website to give your views, but it would be very helpful if you would contact David Greer or Wendy Scholefield by email or phone to give us your perspective on the budget. We will be voting on the budget at the March Trust Council meeting on Galiano Island and would like to know your views before casting our votes.

There have been a few reports of the December Trust Council in various media. If you would like to know more about the various issues that were on the Council agenda, please contact Trustee Greer for details. Trustee Scholefield was not able to attend the meeting because of problems resulting from eye surgery.

The next meeting of the South Pender Local Trust Committee will be Tuesday, February 8 at 10AM in the Community Room of the South Pender Firehall. The agenda will be available on the website the week before the meeting so please contact one of your Trustees if you have comments on any of the items on the agenda...or have other issues that you would like to raise at the Local Trust Committee level.

Wendy Scholefield 629-3681 wscholefield@islandstrust.bc.ca
David Greer 250 598-3607 dgreer@islandstrust.bc.ca