

The Trust Committee met on March 27th. Items under discussion were primarily related to the Riparian Area Regulations. The Province enacted these regulations in 2004 and require all local governments, which includes the Islands Trust, to implement the regulations as laid out in the Act.

For a number of years, the community and various Local Trust Committees have sought clarity on how these regulations would apply to Mayne Island water courses in view of an absence of fish, and no historical references to fish being found. A number of reports, four to date, from qualified environmental practitioners have been produced. The final report prepared by Trystan Willmott of Madrone Environmental Services Ltd. was presented at our meeting. Trystan has recommended that the Campbell Bay/Deacon Creek water course be exempted from the criteria for regulations, but recommend both Horton Bay Creek, known as Hunt's Brook and the Village Bay Creek, as having potential for fish or fish habitat. Trystan explained his report and answered many questions from the audience members and the Trustees. The current report recommends setback areas that range from 2 meters for ditches and 15 to 30 meters for ponds or drainage areas. Current Land Use Bylaws have setbacks from water courses of 7.5 meters. These proposed setback areas would be designated on our maps and become development permit areas that regulate building construction and land clearing; a development permit would be required to work in these areas. Areas in which the watercourses drain that are Agricultural zones or used for Agricultural purposes, normal farming activities are not impacted by the development permits. The majority of these drainages are within our Agricultural Zone. For more information on this issue, please contact Brian or myself.

We next meet on April 24, 2017 at the Agricultural Hall at 1pm.

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