

Our regular business meeting was held January 30, 2017. The Local Trust Committee Chair, George Grams, attended by telephone connection due to his nasty cold. While the connection was not as effective as George in person, he was at least able to participate in our meeting. George normally travels by his own boat to Dinner Bay from Salt Spring Island.

Two applications were dealt with, one for a variance at Edith Point Road that was approved with minor alterations based on Planner Gary Richardson's recommendation. A Temporary Use Permit to allow office space rentals at the Active Pass Auto was also passed. Trustee Jeanine Dodds recused herself from the vote due to her Mother's home being next door.

An engaging conversation about Bylaw enforcement issues was conducted as we had Miles Drew, our Bylaw Enforcement Manager present at the meeting. Short-term vacation rentals and how to continue effective enforcement over these non-permitted uses will be sent to our Advisory Planning Commission for more discussion. Other issues around enforcement of bylaws was a concern expressed by Trustee Dodds over non-permitted housing being used, my concern being that if persons were forced out of their housing, where would they go. Our Bylaw office was asked to come back with an Enforcement policy that would take into consideration the lack of rental housing on Mayne Island and the challenges for many renters.

Our final presentation was by Fiona MacRaidl on First Nations in the Gulf Islands area. She gave us a brief explanation of the Douglas Treaty and the long history of mistreatment of our First Nations peoples. The Local Trust committee looks forward to being able to enhance our relationship with our 13 First Nations with interests on Mayne Island.

On a personal note, all members of the Trust Committee would like to send our condolences to the family and friends of Mary Cooper. Mary was our "Water Warrior", she worked hard to keep water issues front and centre, ensuring that the education that was needed to keep the community informed was provided. Thank you Mary, you never gave up on your role despite serious family and health issues in the past few years. Yes we will miss you, a faithful member of our audience for many years, a gentle thorn in our sides at times but always with our Island as a number one priority.

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