

Trustee Stamford Report - October 2017

Official Community Plan Targeted Review – The review has been on hold since the spring because of lack of planning staff to support the project. Despite this both Trustee Rogers and myself have taken every opportunity to engage community members on an informal basis about OCP topics in the variety of public meetings and events held this summer. The Gambier Advisory Planning Commission has been referred a revised outline for comment and will be meeting at the Gambier Community Centre on December 18th at 1:00pm – everyone is welcome. In addition, the Local Trust Committee is looking forward to engaging a multi-representative working group (including the Squamish Nation and FLNRO) to support consultation in the vision for the Wilderness Recreation Zone as part of the OCP review.

Ground Water and Wells Workshop – The Islands Trust held 11 water workshops throughout the Salish Sea Islands this summer. The one on Gambier on August 8th was attended by more than 30 people and included information about:

- Groundwater and wells
- How to protect water sources
- How to test and treat well water
- Water conservation tips and technologies

Everyone who has attended these workshops was impressed with how useful they were but if you weren't able to attend, the same workshop was recorded on Bowen Island and is available to view here:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/water-resource-information-for-islanders/wells-and-groundwater/>

If you have specific questions about your water situation, the Islands Trust has a water specialist on a temporary contract. William Shulba can be reached at wshulba@islandstrust.bc.ca . Also Chris Morse from Vancouver Coast Health can be reached at Chris.Morse@vch.ca

Burnco proposed gravel pit mine at McNab Creek – After a long hiatus the joint federal/provincial environmental review of the proposed mine at McNab is now continuing. I am a member of the Working Group for this project along with SCRDP planning staff, First Nation representatives, FLNRO and environment ministry staff. The BCEAO and CEAA have compiled a technical assessment report about the project and will have the documents open for public comment for a 30-day period starting on October 27th. See link:

<https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/p/burnco-aggregate/commentperiod/list>

Feasibility Study for a National Park – Minister McKenna, Federal Environment, responded to MP Pamela Goldsmith-Jones about her request for a feasibility study for a National Park on Gambier. The letter generally states that a feasibility study is not a priority in the Howe Sound region at this time, but the federal government is awaiting the results of *Pathway to Canada Target 1* recommendations that should be coming out in March 2018 to better understand how to protect their target of 17% conserved lands across the country by 2020. The David Suzuki Foundation continues to work with federal ministry staff in developing this park idea as a realistic concept within their priorities. A copy of the letter from Min McKenna will be posted on my Trustee website next week.

I will continue to engage with our local MLA Nicholas Simons to advocate for the protection of the forests on public land on Gambier is of primary importance to most islanders and regional community members. Several people have noted how quickly and easily Bowen Island squashed any talk of logging on their public lands but keep in mind the proposed woodlots on Gambier are much further along in the process and in a different timber district from Bowen Island.

Ocean Watch Task Force – Howe Sound. I am co-chairing a group of local government representatives, staff and NGO representatives to develop appropriate policy actions arising from the Ocean Watch – Howe Sound edition published by the CORI Coastal Ocean Research Institute (part of the Vancouver Aquarium). The Howe Sound Forum has been a wonderful venue with which various levels of governments including first nations have gathered together to exchange information and ideas about this complex region. This Task Force is the next step in moving talk into action. If you are interested in the types of initiatives being proposed, please see the link to the Ocean Watch Summary below as well as the recent Conversations that matter video Jessica Schultz of CORI and Andrew Day.

<https://www.openchannels.org/literature/16419> - summary version for actions

[Conversations That Matter - Howe Sound](#)

For an outline of the last Howe Sound Community Forum held last week at Camp Elphinstone and hosted by our SCRD Director Ian Winn please go to:

[Howe Sound Community Forum Oct 16 2017](#)

As always thank you to local Gambierite, Ruth Simons for organizing this event on a bi-annual basis.

Sunshine Coast Regional District:

Community Docks - The first SCRD Ports Monitoring Committee met on September 19th and I will forward any information forthcoming from this group. For contact info about specific docks issues and an outline of the maintenance schedule please refer to this link:

<http://www.scrd.ca/docks--ports-overview>

Community Dialogues - In the summer the SCRD conducted a day of community dialogues on Gambier and Keats. I did take notes and will continue to follow up on action items arising with Director Winn. There was some interesting information about the possible history of dock funding from former Trustee Kim Benson at the Keats meeting and I think she was on-point when she said that the Islands only require the SCRD to do 3 things well: Docks, Garbage and Parks in that order.

[SCRD Community Dialogues 2017 notes from Gambier and Keats](#)

Gambier South West Peninsula Trails Task Force – Please make the effort to attend and/or engage in the open house being held at the Gambier Community Centre on October 28th 12 – 2pm where the results of the task force will be discussed. It is important that all voices are heard about how, or if, any new trail initiatives are considered in the south west area of the island by the regional district. I will send out a link to the report on October 28th.

Salt Spring Island Referendum - On September 9 Salt Spring Island voted against becoming a municipality. This is an event that had preoccupied the Trust Council for the past two years as significant contingency plans were required for the federation of islands to restructure around the real possibility of such a large island municipality. As it is, with the results of the referendum and with a more supportive provincial government, the Council is looking forward to the opportunity of refocusing and modernizing how the Islands Trust accomplishes its unique mandate to preserve and protect the ecology and rural communities on the islands in the Salish Sea.

Highlights of the Trust Council held on Denman Island in September can be found here:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/344588/september-2017-council-decision-highlights.pdf>

I was not able to attend this Trust Council.

New Brighton Dock –The boards have been replaced at the far end of the outer float and I just heard from Joyce Clegg that Squamish Marine Group is looking the possibility of whether concrete floats would better handle our specific weather conditions at New Brighton. I have reached out several times to the Squamish Marine Group as well as representatives at the Squamish Nation to get a public meeting on Gambier about their New Brighton facility but have not been taken up on my offer to date. I will continue to push for better public engagement for this critical part of our island infrastructure.

Langdale Terminal Survey – Have your say about the new plans for the Langdale Terminal check their Facebook page: Langdale Terminal.