



Islands Trust

**GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE
PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING NOTES
SATURNA ISLAND MEETING CONSULTATION
Monday, May 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturna Island Community Hall**

PRESENT:

Kim Benson, Chair, Islands Trust Council
Brian Hollingshead, Saturna Island Local Trustee
Tom Johnstone, Saturna Island Local Trustee
Linda Adams, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marie Smith, Executive Coordinator
Donna Curwen, Recorder

There were approximately 14 members of the public in attendance.

The presentation commenced at 7 pm following a half-hour walk-through of the displays.

Question Period:

Charles Rief – What would happen if you went with Option 1(a)? With no ceiling in what the number would be to ask for more representatives would other islands in the future also want more representatives? In Option 3, if islands voted for 4 representatives, would they be able to hold a vote to go back to 2 at a later date if it didn't work out?

Jim Campbell – Need to address the political reality. It is impossible with just 3 people to make a correct decision. There is no opposition that is heard and no public discussion. It is an arbitration board in actual fact as there is no debating. When there is a major change in a community the Trustees are very busy but when it is quiet they do “make work” projects. Having 4 representatives would mean they could have meetings on-island with the 5th person traveling to them. It would mean less travel and thus cost less. Elect 1 or 2 members of the 4 to go to Trust Council. The Trustees need to focus on Preserve and Protect and be able to say NO if the proposal does not meet that criterion. The Trust does not have the mandate be involved with services i.e. ferry issues.

Priscilla Ewbank – If it is decided that SSI should have 4 Trustees, it will cost more. That the Trust exists is good. See a tremendous problem with just 3 members especially on a small island. The mandate is to Preserve and Protect. SSI is run off its feet and Galiano is in collision with the community. There is too much work on SSI for 2 trustees. They need to be able to travel to other islands. Numbers need to be increased – doing too much administration – maybe need to hire more administration staff so Trustees are free to work

on Preserve and Protect. The trust needs to be aware of other administrations such as CRD but needs to concentrate on Preserve and Protect. Don't get lost in the administration process.

Kim Benson – Cooperation with other agencies is important

Brian Hollingshead – Smaller islands have less work and can therefore be more involved in administration.

Tom Johnstone– Saturna does not have that many proposals in a year where SSI could have 100! This is a huge workload and they have no time for administration.

Sue Pederson – SSI is an anomaly. Are 4 trustees enough? SSI does not want to be a municipality but it is more suited to be one in some ways. If they became a municipality would we lose the tax base for the Islands Trust? Perhaps they should be told go with the status quo or do something else.

Earl Nelson –Perhaps they should dig a canal across SSI and that would solve the problem, as each half would have 2 Trustees.

Jim Campbell - Applications have to do with variances and bylaws. Each application should have to enclose a statement as to how the application advances the mandate of the Islands Trust. It would cut down on the workload. The Trustees believe they are doing the right thing. They need to learn to say no.

Jacques Campbell – More trustees – more bang for your buck. \$12, 000 per year for trustees is not outrageous. If we had 4 trustees maybe they could be paid less, say \$8000 a year. Have the population vote more and when the population increases you could have 2 more trustees.

John McMillan – If the trustees work full time perhaps we should pay them full time. If there were 4 trustees on SSI, would it make a difference in the vote at Trust Council?

Comment – It would not make a difference in the overall picture whether 2 or 4 trustees. No fear of SSI having the balance of power if only 2 more from Salt Spring.

Jim Campbell - Feels that the representatives on Executive Committee should be renewed each year on the basis of their performance. It is difficult to elect a Council at the first meeting as many people do not know each other or how they would perform so the Executive Committee should be reviewed each year at an annual assembly. 13 people that could represent the Board could be elected annually - could be effective. You would be choosing from a new group each year.

Meeting ended at 9:15 pm.

Donna Curwen
Recorder

Kim Benson
Chair