

South Pender Island Local Trustees' Report

Recent Meetings:

The South Pender APC (Advisory Planning Commission) met on August 6th to consider the current draft of proposed amendments to the LUB (Land Use Bylaw). Since the current LUB is ten years old and the review is a follow-up project to a recently adopted OCP (Official Community Plan), the review of the LUB is the top priority of the LTC this term. South Pender is fortunate to have a diverse, engaged and thorough APC, with members who bring broad experience to the task. Since this was the first meeting of this APC, the initial order of business was elections of Chair and Vice-Chair. Chair Buffy Paterson and Vice-Chair, Jane Perch, were elected by acclamation. Minutes of this meeting should now be available at the South Pender webpage of the Islands Trust website. Simply click on the location of SPI on the homepage map to bring up this page. You can use the calendar to find meeting notices, minutes and agendas.

The technical and administrative wrinkles of the new Islands Trust website are gradually being ironed out. Your patience is appreciated. For those seeking meeting minutes of the June 15th CIM (Community Information Meeting) and the June 18th LTC (Local Trust Committee) meeting, these are included in the agenda package of the August 10th Public Hearing Meeting posted online at the SPI webpage. The August 10 Public Hearing was a final opportunity for the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee on matters contained in the proposed bylaw. After the Hearing, the LTC cannot receive new information and cannot discuss the proposed bylaws with the public. The reason for this rule is to allow everyone to debate any information that might influence the Trustees' final decision. Even though the APC meeting took place only 4 days before the Public Hearing, the LTC did receive the minutes just before the Public Hearing and the APC comments are included. The APC has expressed a concern that a more wholistic review is needed in order to avoid confusion, ambiguity and potential unintended consequences in some sections of the bylaw. How to respond to this concern will be taken up at the next LTC on September 6th, 10 AM at the South Pender Firehall. Please join us.

As you may know, South Pender Island has committed to joining Galiano, Mayne, Saturna and North Pender islands in the formation of a regional farm plan. This project is being spear-headed by Dave Howe and Derek Masselink through the CRD. In my recent check-in with Derek, he reports that solid progress is being made in establishing the funding and a charter for this project. He also offered to join us at an upcoming LTC meeting to provide a report and answer our questions. We'll keep you posted on when this will be scheduled.

We are always happy to hear from you on your concerns, comments and questions.

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