

GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

Louise Decario and Sandy Pottle

TRUST COUNCIL NEWS

December 2013 Council began with an **Economic Sustainability** session which included participants from Regional Districts, MLAs, Economic Development Reps from six regions including San Juan County, and island community members. Presentations focussed on what has worked, challenges encountered, and new ideas. All agreed that the sharing of information had been inspiring and useful. There is a strong desire to meet again.

Other key topics at Trust Council included:

1. **Strategic Plan** – reviewing and amending Council's Plan for the final year of term
2. **Budget** - reviewing the draft budget and considering amendments to the draft. The Financial Planning Committee will meet again in January before a budget is submitted to the public for review. The aim is to keep the tax requisition low while still maintaining programs.
3. **Advocacy** - advocacy has increased over the past few years and Trustees continue to feel pressure to include more issues. Currently, top priorities are pipelines and tanker traffic, derelict vessels, ferry services and the Provincial Water Act. Recently added items: protection of the Howe Sound area and concern over expansion of Geoduck Aquaculture. Advocacy is used when the Islands Trust has an interest, but does not have jurisdiction in making decisions.

GALIANO LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE MEETING (DECEMBER 9)

Translink's elimination of important times in the **620 bus service** at Tsawwassen came up during the Town Hall. The LTC resolved to write a letter of complaint as did numerous residents of all the southern gulf islands. Translink has since reversed its decision to eliminate buses.

The topic of **Short Term Vacation Rentals** is now first on our work program. We received a report from planner Kim Farris which included background information, current regulations, a draft fact sheet and some potential survey questions. The fact sheet was approved and changes and additions were made to the survey questions. The plan is to have the fact sheet and survey online and mailed to Galiano residents as well as to off island owners. The survey should be ready in early January and should continue through February. A Community Information Meeting is to be held in March. Watch for details.

Much of the meeting was taken up by two applications related to bylaw infractions. One is for a **dock** and the other for a **sea wall** and setback issues. The dock has created difficulties because pilings were installed before approval was granted. It has since been found to be in an eelgrass bed. The entire bay is in an extremely productive marine environment, and therefore the LTC is considering whether there might be a better place for the dock. Docks may be built under our bylaws provided impacts are minimized. The application was deferred until more information is received.

The seawall application was deferred. We've received conflicting reports (one from a surveyor and one from a biologist) defining the high water mark. If the wall has been built within the water zone the jurisdiction rests with the Crown rather than the Islands Trust. Another survey is needed before decisions can be made.

Next Meeting: South Hall, February 3, 2014, at 12:30pm



Islands Trust

**Galiano Island
Local Trust Committee**

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Office Hours: Fridays 11:00am – 2:00pm (Louise)
Tuesdays 4:00pm – 6:00pm (Sandy)
Or By Appointment

Planner Kris Nichols 2014 Office Schedule: 12:00pm-3:00pm - January 23, February 20, March 27, April 17, May 22, and June 19

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