

PENDER POST REPORT

JUNE 2014

The North Pender Local Trust Committee (LTC) met on May 22, 2014 at the Pender Islands Community Hall. Chair Peter Luckham, Local Trustees Ken Hancock and Gary Steeves as well as Recording Secretary Shannon McConchie, Island Planner Justine Stark and Regional Planning Manager Robert Kojima were present.

AGENDA

There were no Community Information Meetings not Public Hearings scheduled for the meeting but the approved agenda included one delegation, two applications and one proposed bylaw for final consideration.

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 24, 2014 LTC meeting were adopted and are available at the Islands Trust website on the North Pender page. See www.islandstrust.bc.ca. Just click on Local Trust Areas > North Pender > Meeting Calendar, Agenda & Minutes.

The Public Hearing Record from the April 24th Public Hearing on proposed Bylaw 194 and the Community Information Meeting (CIM) Notes from the April 24th CIM on the same proposed bylaw were received by the LTC. They are both available on the North Pender web page cited above.

DELEGATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

John Hastings appeared before the LTC as a delegation to express concerns of property owners regarding the proposed Einar's Hill Bypass trail. The multi-modal trail is a part of the CRD initiated Experience the Gulf Islands (ETGI) project and was the subject of correspondence to the LTC from Peter Pare representing the Moving Around Pender Society & ETGI. A discussion on the proposal and issues related to it took place between the LTC and members of the public in attendance.

The cost of the project is estimated to be about \$113,000 but the CRD to date has not approved funds for the project. The trail would follow statutory easements held by the Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and a proposed route across national parks lands. To date, neither MOTI (formerly known as the Ministry of Highways) nor Parks Canada has issued a licence of occupation for the proposed trail. A survey and an environmental assessment are needed but have not yet been undertaken. The CRD has committed to holding a community consultation.

No decisions were made but participants agreed to continue the dialogue on this matter.

APPLICATIONS AND BYLAWS

The LTC discussed two applications from island property owners. The first involved an application to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for permission to build a residence on a site formerly occupied by a barn. The residence would allow the land owner/farmer to live on the property while carrying on with a farm operation and would not remove land from the farm operation. The LTC supported the application going to the ALC for a decision.

An application that has been active for over a year and has been dealt with by the LTC on numerous occasions was presented in amended form for consideration by the LTC. The application was for a rezoning on land currently zoned Rural and Agricultural. The application involves a high degree of complexity including zoning issues, density issues, a comprehensive farm plan and a newly created conservation area.

The LTC approved a number of amendments to the rezoning arrangements and resolved that the rezoning proposal go to public hearing at the regular monthly LTC meeting on June 26th.

All applications and related Staff Reports can be reviewed on the Islands Trust website/North Pender page.

The LTC received proposed By-law 194 for final consideration since the proposed by-law had received third reading at the April 24th LTC meeting and Executive Committee approval on May 6th. The LTC gave final approval to By-law 194, amendments to the North Pender Land Use By-law. The bylaw amendments and related documents can be reviewed on the Islands Trust website/North Pender page.

LTC PROJECTS

The LTC decided to continue its shoreline education project with a mailing to waterfront property owners and to continue with the Conservation Subdivision project. A meeting of large property owners is scheduled for June to further discuss conservation subdivision options. A Staff Report will be made to the next LTC meeting and will be available on our website noted above.

ROUTINE REPORTS

A series of routine reports on the LTC's Work Program, Applications, Expenses and Policies were received by the LTC and again are available on our website.

FARM PLAN

The LTC adopted a motion under new business to have Islands Trust staff contact CRD staff regarding the Southern Gulf Islands Farm Plan project. As the LTC had received nothing from the Regional District this year regarding the CRD's offer to develop a regional farm plan, the LTC wanted to know what opportunities there were for the Islands Trust to be involved in the Request For Proposals contract process to hire a contractor to develop the plan. Further the LTC wanted to know what steps were planned for the appointment of a "key co-ordinator" from North Pender to serve on a committee monitoring and directing the contractors work.

A prominent island farmer, in attendance, suggested that the members of the island's farm community should choose the 'key co-ordinator'. By e-mail later in the month, the CRD Director has agreed that the suggestion made sense but no response from CRD staff has yet been reported.

TOWN HALL/ADJOURNMENT

Following a brief Town Hall session, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for June 26th at 9:45 AM at the Community Hall. All meetings are open to the public and we look forward to seeing you there.

TRUST COUNCIL

The Islands Trust Council met June 17, 18 & 19 on Saturna. Three Community Stewardship Award were granted to people who have made a special contribution to the Pender community. Paul & Monica Petrie from South Pender were recognized for their work on the completion of Brooks Point Regional Park; Christa Grace-Warrick of North Pender was recognized for her promotion of community connection through publishing and Barry Morrison & Nancy Waxler-Morrison from North Pender were recognized posthumously for their "Enduring Achievement" with the Morrison Waxler Biodiversity Protection Legacy Fund. Congratulations to all!

Council voted to again place a primary research and advocacy focus on BC Ferries, focusing on long range planning, capital costs, fares, service and the BC Ferries Commissioner's performance review process. County Councillors from San Juan County attended the meeting discussing not only ferry issues but made presentations on shellfish aquaculture, shoreline protection, economic development and pipelines. The San Juan County Council shares Trust Council's concerns on increased tanker traffic,

spill potential and response capability.

Council also received a presentation by Eoin Finn on the hazards of LNG plants and transportation systems. You can see the presentation (which is very interesting and frightening) on YouTube. Just put his name and LNG into the search function. And while you are on the computer, you can learn more the special place we live by googling “cdfcp.ca” and find out about the coastal Douglas fir ecosystem and the remaining portions of this unique but disappearing coastal ecosystem.

Respectfully submitted

Ken Hancock and Gary Steeves
Island Trustees
North Pender Island