

*“In the long run men hit only what they aim at.” – Henry David Thoreau*

This theme of this past month has been vision and direction. This makes sense given that it is early into our term. At the local level we are in the midst of ironing out our Work Plan, which establishes our priorities for the next four years. We’ve decided to focus on housing and waste management while continuing the work the age-friendly planning work that was initiated by the previous Local Trust Committee. At a Trust Council level, there is also much interest and discussion about our vision as an organization as we begin to think about and determine our Strategic Plan for the next four years.

### ***Work Plan Priorities***

At the March 26<sup>th</sup> Local Trust Committee much of our discussion focused on our two work plan priorities – housing and solid waste. Our Island Planner Justine Starke has prepared staff reports suggesting potential approaches for these two areas. Trustee Barber will help lead the Housing Project while Trustee Masselink will be responsible for Waste Management. A copy of these two reports is available on the North Pender Island section of the Islands Trust Website [www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/north-pender.aspx](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/north-pender.aspx)

### ***Age and Disability Friendly Communities***

Work has begun on the Age and Disability Friendly Community Planning Project. James Van Hemert has been selected as the consultant for the project. A series of workshops are being planned. The first will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – 1:30 pm at the Pender Island Community Hall. Anyone with an interest in an age-friendly future for North Pender Island is encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided. Participants are asked to RSVP for the lunch by contacting Lori Foster at 250.405.5163 or at [lfoster@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:lfoster@islandstrust.bc.ca). More information on the Age-Friendly project can be found on the North Pender Island section of the Islands Trust website.

### ***Southern Trustees Roundtable***

On March 31<sup>st</sup> a joint meeting was held in Sidney between Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island Trustees, Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Island Electoral Area Directors, our staff, as well as the Mayor of Sidney and representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission. Traditionally, this is a biannual meeting of the Southern Gulf Islands Trustees, it was expanded in an effort to discuss and potentially connect all of the great work that is occurring in the Southern Trust area. The meeting was a great success and it is expected to be repeated again this fall if not sooner.

### ***Developing a Vision for the Trust***

Southern Gulf Island Trustees have initiated a discussion about developing a vision for the Islands Trust. A meeting was held on April 13<sup>th</sup> in Sidney to start brainstorming ideas. The hope is to develop a compelling and aspirational vision that embodies the Trust mandate and

provides everyone with a bit more clarity about our purpose and direction. The group will be recommending that Council undertake a visioning process as part of Strategic Planning process that is currently underway.

### ***Community Conversations***

Trustee Masselink continues to meet with Island community groups to learn more about their work. These conversations have been very enjoyable and insightful. The resulting understanding and connections that have been made have also been useful - so much so that consideration is being given to hosting an open monthly meeting at the Hope Bay Office in an effort to better connect, share and learn from one another.

### ***Community Involvement***

We continue to look for additional members for our Advisory Planning Commission. We've recently extended our application deadline until the end of April but there will likely still be spots available on the Commission. Please do consider applying. You do not need a background in land use planning. It is a great way to learn more about while contributing to the future health and wellbeing of our island community. Information on the application procedure is available on the North Pender Island Section of the Island Trust website.

It has been great to see so many new and interested faces at our monthly Local Trust Committee meetings. Work is underway to provide audio recordings of these meeting on the Trust website so that those who aren't able to attend can listen in on what happened. We are also looking into the possibility of trying a few early evening meetings to see if this results in even greater participation. We are committed to improving the accessibility and participation in our local democratic process. We are also open to any ideas you might have to improve participation – particularly from our youth, who are noticeably absent from our meetings. They are our future so it is important that we find a way to involve them in our decision-making processes.

That about covers it for this past month. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this months report please feel free to leave a message at our Hope Bay office 250.629.3476 or contact us directly by email at [dbarber@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:dbarber@islandstrust.bc.ca) or [dmasselink@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:dmasselink@islandstrust.bc.ca).

Cheers!

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