



News Release

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2011-18-IT

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE CANCELS PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BYLAW 449

SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC, June 23, 2011

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee decided this afternoon to cancel the public hearing at Gulf Islands Secondary School on Saturday June 25 regarding proposed Bylaw 449 until further notice.

Chair Sheila Malcolmson made the announcement explaining, "We did our best to accommodate the large group interested in the proposed bylaw, but after Wednesday night's meeting we heard two things that changed our minds about re-opening the public hearing on Saturday. We heard that Saturdays in the summer are too busy for residents to attend meetings at short notice. We were also dismayed to hear after the meeting at ArtSpring that some people felt unsafe. We are committed to providing a safe and constructive environment for everyone involved to speak and be heard. We would also like to take some time to reflect on all the questions and concerns we are hearing from people. We hope that allowing more time before rescheduling the public hearing will give everyone an opportunity to understand the proposed bylaw and make constructive suggestions."

Chair Malcolmson concluded by saying, "We appreciate the input we have received. We are listening and we need more time to digest it. We understand some questions remain about key areas of the bylaw and a public hearing is not the ideal venue to answer those questions."

The new date and location for the public hearing will be advertised in the community newspaper.

Proposed Bylaw 449 integrates the province's Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) with Salt Spring Island's existing Development Permit Area (DPA4) which includes the island's major lakes, streams and wetlands. The new proposed DPA4 will implement the requirements of the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR), protect sensitive riparian habitat and increase the protection of drinking water watersheds.

A copy of the proposed bylaw, and any background material that may be considered by the Local Trust Committee, may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays. Proposed Bylaw No. 449 may also be viewed on the Islands Trust website at:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/lc/ss/pdf/ssbylamendocp0449.pdf>

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