



Islands Trust

**DENMAN ISLAND
LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE DENMAN ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE**

held at 10:30 am on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at the Denman Seniors Hall,
1111 Northwest Road, Denman Island, BC

LATE ITEMS, ADDITIONS

**AMENDMENTS/ADDITIONS
TO ITEMS:**

13. NEW BUSINESS

- 13.2 Trustee Busheikin -Submission to Ferry Commissioner regarding the Cable Ferry –
attached for discussion

Trustee Busheikin - Draft Submission for Discussion

Draft submission to the cable ferry review process

(written submissions can be sent by email to info@bcferrycommission.com or by mail to BC Ferry Commission, PO Box 9279 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC, V8W 9J7. The deadline for written submissions is **January 23, 2014.**)

To the BC Ferry Commission:

The Denman Island Local Trust Committee is Denman Island's local government body responsible for land use planning. In doing so we are guided by the Islands Trust mandate to "preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally."

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed cable ferry. These concerns reflect widespread feelings in the community.

Key issues include safety, reliability, cost and quality/quantity of service, especially in adverse weather conditions. Reports that these issues have been adequately studied by appropriate experts have not reassured Denman Islanders, who see this project as experimental, given that there is no cable ferry of this length across ocean waters anywhere in the world. Furthermore, this is new technology for BC Ferries. Thus, people are concerned about an increased potential for unreliability compared to the current ferry.

Another concern is the lack of interoperability within the BC Ferries fleet. This contributes to the likelihood that our route will not have the same reliability as other ferry-dependent communities, in the case of breakdowns and refits.

As well, the expansion of the ferry terminal at Denman West is not in keeping with several Official Community Plan Objectives. Our OCP asks us to advocate for "strategies that manage vehicle traffic demand...rather than expand vessels or parking and staging areas," and to "address the effects of ferry parking and staging so that...negative visual, environmental and social impacts are reduced."

Concern about the cable ferry, coupled with regular fare increases over the years, and most recently the announcements of major cuts to service, have made it hard for Denman Islanders to organize their family and economic lives around an expectation of sufficient, affordable ferry service. On an Island, decisions about business plans, employment, education, family structure, and place of residence are based very much on evaluations of the availability of sufficient transportation to the mainland. Currently, we are consistently hearing from Denman Islanders that these evaluations are negative.

Our island communities and economies, like communities and economies throughout BC, need a workable level of transportation infrastructure. Currently, Denman Islanders are losing faith that this is being provided by BC Ferries. The level of anxiety and insecurity about the reliability and sustainability of our local ferry service into the future is at an all-time high. This is eating away at our community resilience.

The Denman LTC supports the review of the cable ferry proposal and asks that, unless there

is certainty that a cable ferry can indeed safely, reliably and consistently continue the same level of service as the *Quinitza*, and produce significant savings, the cable ferry project not go ahead.

Regards,

Denman Island Local Trust Committee