



**GABRIOLA ISLAND
LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE GABRIOLA ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE**
at 10:15 AM on Thursday, November 29, 2012
at the Women's Institute,
476 South Road, Gabriola Island, BC

LATE ITEMS, ADDITIONS

**AMENDMENTS/ADDITIONS
TO ITEMS:**

3. MINUTES

- 3.6 Transportation Advisory Commission Draft Minutes dated November 20, 2012 - *attached*
3.6.1 Submission from Trustee Rudischer regarding Draft Wording for a Submission to the
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for Ferry Consultation- *attached*

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- 4.2 Staff Advice regarding Eelgrass Mapping Proposal from Topographics – *for discussion*
Memorandum dated November 22, 2012 - *attached*

6. REPORTS

- 6.3 **Trustee and Local Expenses**
Posted to November 30, 2012 - *attached*



DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE GABRIOLA ISLAND
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
Held on November 20, 2012 at 7:00PM
At Northern Islands Trust Office
700 North Road, Gabriola Island**

PRESENT:

TAC Members: John Hodgkins, Jim Ramsay, Philip Vannini, Steven Earle
 Trustees: Gisele Rudischer
 Recorder: Chloe Fox, Island Planner
 Regrets (if any): Tina Taylor

There were three members of the public present.

1. Welcome

Chloe Fox, Island Planner started the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed the new membership of the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC).

2. Transportation Advisory Commission Orientation

A brief orientation was provided by Planner Fox and the members introduced themselves to each other and the public in attendance. Planner Fox then sought expressions of interest for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of the TAC. It was decided by consensus that the members would wait until all were present at the next meeting to fill the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. The following members volunteered to assume these duties for the next meeting:

- Steven Earle volunteered as Chair.
- Philip Vannini volunteered as Vice-Chair.
- Jim Ramsay volunteered as Secretary.

Steven Earle also volunteered to chair sections 3 to 6 of the agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda

No new items.

4. Minutes

None.

5. Referral – Submission to BC Coastal Ferries Consultation

The Chair provided an overview of the referral, with input from staff and Trustee Rudischer. The TAC discussed the referral. Topics included:

- The consultation document entitled *BC Coastal Ferries Consultation and Engagement Discussion Guide and Feedback Form*;
- The consultation process run by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure,

including the timing of the consultation process and the lack of options presented in the consultation document;

- The need for additional consultation when, and if, specific service adjustments are proposed as well as the need for long-term solutions for minor ferry routes; and
- The funding model for minor ferry routes.

GBTAC-001-2012 It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that the Gabriola Transportation Advisory Commission recommends that the Gabriola Local Trust Committee (LTC) respond to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's (MoTI) consultation process on ferry service as follows:

- The existing consultation process is fatally flawed and should be suspended or discontinued. The fundamental problem is the lack of detailed financial information from BC Ferries as to the breakdown of various overhead costs amongst the various routes, including Gabriola's Route 19 service. The absence of such data limits our ability to understand levels of contribution to the various routes.
- Before any adjustments to the existing Route 19 schedule are considered, MoTI should present and consult with the community on other options, including having Route 19 managed as a stand-alone entity.
- Long-term solutions should be tailored to fit the community's needs and should be consistent with the need to minimize environmental impacts.
- The government of British Columbia should compare and reconcile subsidy levels to BC Ferries with those provided to other transportation services, and other essential services.
- The LTC supports the convening of a public meeting by the Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee and Sustainable Gabriola on December 8, 2012 to explore other options for the Route 19 ferry service.

CARRIED

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

Date

Submission – MOTI ferry consultation

We recommend that the consultation process be extended or discontinued.

The consultation process is fatally flawed. There is a lack of detailed financial information from B.C. Ferries on the breakdown of overhead costs among the various routes, including Route 19 services. The questions are for the most part not suitable for province-wide consultation unless the same applies with regards to highways, bridges and other forms of transportation. Many questions would be better answered by management. Before any changes are made to Route 19 schedules MOTI should carry out a further consultation with the community presenting options.

We are opposed to paying more for this service through property or fuel taxes.

Gabriolans already pay fuel taxes that contribute to highways. Ferry dependent communities are paying a disproportionate share of the provincial transportation infrastructure and shouldn't be taxed twice.

We are opposed to the replacement of our ferry with a bridge.

Both the Islands Trust Policy and the Gabriola Official Community Plan do not support linking islands with bridges. These policies are the result of extensive community consultation and reflect the view of a majority of Gabriolans. We don't believe it is economically feasible to build a bridge from Vancouver Island to Mudge Island, a highway through Mudge and another bridge to Gabriola as anything but part of a larger plan to relocate the Main Route Departure Bay Terminal to Gabriola. This would include a highway through Gabriola to False Narrows and result in the destruction of our natural environment at a scale incompatible with the Islands Trust mandate to preserve and protect the environment and unique amenities of these islands; unique amenities that could easily be lost as a result of over-development.

Residents of Gabriola enjoy a somewhat isolated, rural lifestyle in harmony with nature. This would be lost if such bridges are built. The quiet, peaceful existence we hold dear would be broken by an increase in traffic, an increase in population, more demand for services, increased taxation and the loss of natural values that attract residents and visitors alike to our island. Given that Gabriola Island is located in the Islands Trust Area, long term solutions should be tailored to fit the community's needs and should be consistent with the need to minimize environmental impacts. In an age when climate change is a real threat these solutions should be geared towards less dependence on automobile traffic, not more.

Memorandum

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Date: November 22, 2012

File Number: 5020-20 (Gabriola
Eelgrass Mapping)

To: Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee
For meeting of November 29, 2012

From: Chloe Fox, Island Planner, Local Planning Services
Kate Emmings, Ecosystem Protection Specialist, Islands Trust Fund

Re: Eelgrass Mapping from Topographics

At the November 1, 2012 regular business meeting, the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) received an email from Topographics Landscape Architects proposing to develop a gap analysis which collates existing mapping information around eelgrass and shoreline ecosystems from the past 50 years pertinent to the Gabriola area. In consideration of this request, the LTC passed the following resolution:

GB-104-2012 It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee seek staff advice on completing eelgrass mapping as described in Topographics' email dated October 31, 2012.

CARRIED

The purpose of this memorandum is to present information on current and proposed future efforts within the Islands Trust Area to map eelgrass beds and to present advice from Islands Trust Fund and Local Planning Staff with regard to the proposal from Topographics.

Current Eelgrass Mapping Projects:

Eelgrass is a critical nearshore habitat for numerous birds, mammals, invertebrates and commercial and non-commercial fish. Eelgrass conservation and stewardship provides social benefits by preserving habitat for food fish and shellfish, providing wildlife viewing and an opportunity to connect with nature. Eelgrass beds are also an important carbon sink. The mapping of eelgrass beds will help inform the Trust Fund Board and local trust committees allowing them to make science-based decisions around land use and conservation that prevent further habitat loss.

In the 2012/13 budget year, the Islands Trust Fund, with some support from local trust committees, has been working to complete eelgrass mapping for the following areas:

- North and South Pender;
- Thetis and Associated Islands (except Valdes);
- Gambier; and
- Lasqueti.

These islands were chosen because they were actively working on projects involving shoreline ecosystem education and/or potential shoreline regulation.

Mapping is being undertaken by SeaChange Marine Conservation Society through a partnership with the Seagrass Conservation Working Group and is funded, in part, through Vancity Credit Union and other funding agencies. Eelgrass mapping is being done by boat with the aid of a towed underwater camera and is being completed to a Level 1 standard as defined in "Methods for Mapping and Monitoring Eelgrass Habitat in British Columbia (Dec 2002)", available through the Community Mapping Network, and as modified through a methodology approved by a qualified registered professional biologist. The modifications to the methodology have been designed to accommodate modernized mapping techniques and to reduce costs.

Additionally, the Islands Trust Fund has been working on a related pilot project with Ramona de Graaf to conduct Forage Fish Habitat Assessments on North and South Pender Islands. These areas will also be mapped.

The Islands Trust Fund, with support from Local Planning Services, has submitted two budget requests for the 2013-2014 fiscal year to Trust Council requesting funds to expand shoreline mapping, through a 2 year project, to the rest of the Islands Trust Area. Shoreline mapping budget items include eelgrass mapping for the entire Islands Trust Area and a request for Forage Fish Habitat Assessments for the major islands. These budget requests have been reduced from their original amounts, so it may be useful for local trust committees with available budgets to work with the Islands Trust Fund to complete mapping for their Local Trust Areas. More will be known about budget needs in early 2013.

Staff Comments / Advice:

The second priority on the LTC work program, the Gabriola Planning Area OCP Review, includes the following topics relevant to eelgrass mapping:

- Implement OCP climate change policies into the LUB (*i.e. given the function of eelgrass beds as carbon sinks*);
- Review OCP and LUB to include protective measures for biodiversity; and
- Review OCP and LUB to improve protection of coastal areas.

In consideration of moving forward with these topic areas and in light of Topographics' proposal, staff recommends that Gabriola Island and its associated islands be one of the areas mapped in the 2013/2014 budget year, subject to sufficient funding, and that, when work begins on these islands, the contractor contact Topographics to make sure that they have the best available information for the mapping. Islands Trust Fund staff would like to ensure that any mapping done for Gabriola Island and its associated islands is done in such a way that it is compatible with the mapping done for the rest of the Islands Trust Area.

Islands Trust Fund staff has been in touch with Laura-Jean Kelly of Topographics to coordinate current community mapping with potential future mapping and has provided her with information on current and proposed eelgrass and shoreline mapping projects. Staff has committed to reconnecting with her in mid-December to further discuss mapping for the Gabriola Island Local Trust Area. Staff anticipates having a better idea of budget needs at that time and will provide further information to the LTC at their January meeting.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by:

Chloe Fox, RPP, MCIP
Island Planner
Local Planning Services

Kate Emmings
Ecosystem Protection Specialist
Islands Trust Fund

Pc: Courtney Simpson, A/Regional Planning Manager
Jennifer Eliason, Manager, Islands Trust Fund

From: Nicole Ranger
Sent: November-28-12 11:14 AM
To: Chloe Fox; David Graham; Gisele Rudischer; Sheila Malcolmson; Becky McErlean; Theresa Warren
Cc: Nancy Roggers
Subject: Gabriola Expense Report Nov/12

Islands Trust

LTC EXP SUMMARY REPORT F2012

Invoices posted to November 30, 2012

620 Gabriola		Invoices posted to November 30, 2012	Budget	Spent	Balance
	65000 620	LTC "Trustee Expenses"	1,600.00	399.18	1,200.82
	65200 620	LTC Local Exp LTC Meeting Expenses	4,000.00	3,092.92	907.08
	65210 620	LTC Local Exp APC Meeting Expenses	2,400.00	1,054.65	1,345.35
	65220 620	LTC Local Exp Communications	1,500.00	594.62	905.38
	65230 620	LTC Local Exp Special Projects	2,200.00	200.00	2,000.00
	65240 620	LTC Local Exp Miscellaneous	800.00	-	800.00
	TOTAL LTC Local Expense		10,900.00	4,942.19	5,957.81
	73001 620 2001	Gabriola OCP/LUB	19,000.00	609.00	18,391.00
	73001 620 3002	Gabriola RAR	4,000.00	194.05	3,805.95
	73001 620 4003	Mudge DeCourcy baseline GHG Inventory	2,500.00	-	2,500.00
	TOTAL Project Expense		25,500.00	803.05	24,696.95

Nicole Ranger

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Preserving Island communities, culture and environment



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