ADOPTED

Islands Trust Conservancy Board

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Date:	Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Time:	10:00 a.m.
Location:	Electronic Zoom Meeting Islands Trust - Victoria 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC
Board Members Present	Risa Smith, Vice Chair Tobi Elliott, Board Member Grant Scott, Board Member Susan Yates, Board Member
Board Member Regrets	Linda Adams, Chair
Staff Present	Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services, joined the meeting at 10:19 a.m., left the meeting at 10:45 a.m., and rejoined the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Kate Emmings, Islands Trust Conservancy Manager Jemma Green, Covenant Management & Outreach Specialist Kathryn Martell, Ecosystem Protection Specialist Nuala Murphy, Property Management Specialist Carmen Smith, A/Communications and Fundraising Specialist Wendy Tyrrell, Species at Risk Program Coordinator Corlynn Strachan, Administrative Assistant/Recorder
Public Present:	There were four members of the public present electronically as attendees

1. CALL TO ORDER

In Chair Adams' absence, Vice Chair Smith chaired the meeting, called it to order at 10:05 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting was being held in locations across the territories of the Coast Salish people.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following additions to the agenda were presented for consideration:

- Item 5.2.3 – Islands Trust Conservancy and Local Conservancy Relations
- Viewing of Conservancy Hornby Island Silver Highway Herring Migration video (10 minutes), time permitting

By general consent, the agenda was approved as amended.

3. RISE AND REPORT

Manager Emmings reported on the following items from the January 24, 2023 in camera meeting:

- Item 4.1.3 - The Board approved a Morrison Waxler Biodiversity Protection Legacy Fund Grant of $4,614.75 to expand the existing Nighthawk Hill Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) covenant, North Pender Island.
- Item 4.1.4 - The Board approved an Opportunity Fund Grant of $50,000 be awarded to the Nature Conservancy of Canada from the Opportunity Fund for the acquisition of 161 hectares of land on Reginald Hill, Salt Spring Island.
- Item 4.1.6 - The Conservancy received a legacy donation of $25,000 for the purposes of implementing a Western Screech-Owl Project research project on Link Island.

4. MINUTES/COORDINATION

4.1 Minutes of Meetings/Resolutions without Meetings

4.1.1 Approval of January 24, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

By general consent, the Islands Trust Conservancy meeting minutes of January 24, 2023 were adopted.

4.1.2 Record of Resolution without Meeting: ITC-RWM-2023-001

Authorization for Trustee Smith to attend the BC Coastal Marine Strategy Forum, March 7-8, 2023.

Received for information.

4.2 Follow-up Action List

Manager Emmings advised the Sallas Strata voted to proceed with the Sidney Island Ecological Restoration Project, allowing Fallow Deer eradication. Staff are targeting the July meeting for the covenant waivers to come forward to the Board for approval.

Trustee Yates questioned if there has been communication between Islands Trust Conservancy and Mayne Island Trustees about their Fallow Deer problem. Manager Emmings noted the Board received correspondence from the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee regarding management of Fallow Deer and will recirculate the correspondence to the Board for information. Manager Emmings commented addressing the issue of Fallow Deer on Mayne Island would be a large and complex project.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Items for Approval

5.1.1 2023/24 ITC Work Plan – Request for Decision

Manager Emmings presented the request for decision.

Board members discussed the importance of focus on core work, concern about discouraging land owners who wish to donate land or covenants, risk assessment topics, support for the administrative needs component, reconciliation, the climate change project, outreach, high priority areas, and size of properties accepted for proposals.

Ecosystem Protection Specialist Martell provided an update the Climate Change project. Manager Emmings provided a copy of the Climate Change Project Charter to Board members by email.

ITC-2023-009
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to:

1) Focus work for the 2023/24 fiscal year on:
   - Land management, land securement and targeted outreach components of the Species at Risk Program;
   - First Nations engagement associated with development of the ITC Plan;
   - Administrative needs, including: policy updates, maintenance and updates to internal databases (land management and contact management), job description reviews for selected staff, review of the new website and technology used in the field; and
   - Working on proposals for conservation lands that are high priority; and

2) Delay the following work items until the 2024/25 fiscal year:
   - The Climate Change Project;
   - Revision of property management plans;
   - Development of a Reconciliation Action Plan;
   - Monitoring of lands that are protected by other conservation agencies (i.e. parks and nature reserves) or that are considered at low risk of covenant breach or trespass;
   - Outreach and communications that generate new conservation proposals; and
   - Placing of covenants on ITC Nature Reserves.

CARRIED

5.1.2 Referral, Development Variance Permit, GM-DVP-2022.4, Keats Island – Request for Decision

Property Management Specialist Murphy presented the request for decision.

Board members commented issues of engineered shorelines will come up again, recommended raising this issue with Trust Council. Chair Smith recommended discussing this under other business, time permitting.

ITC-2023-010
It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to draft a letter to the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee regarding GM-DVP-2022.4 indicating that, based on the information provided, the Board does not believe that the project will negatively impact the Sandy Beach Nature Reserve and finds its interests to be unaffected by the application.

CARRIED

5.1.3 Referral, N. Pender Bylaw No. 232, Sidney Island – Request for Decision

Manager Emmings presented the request for decision.

ITC-2023-00-011
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) Board direct staff to indicate to the North Pender Local Trust Committee that ITC's interests are unaffected by Bylaw 232 (Sidney Island) and request that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee consider future regulations that increase buffers and other protection measures to ensure that conservation values on Islands Trust Conservancy's Sidney Island covenants are maintained.

CARRIED

5.1.4 Referral, Development Application RZ/OCP-2023-0018, Bowen Island - Request for Decision

Property Management Specialist Murphy presented the request for decision.

Board members discussed adding a dogs on leash directive to the resolution.

ITC-2023-012
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to draft a letter to the Bowen Island Municipality regarding RZ/OCP-2023-0018 indicating that the Board recommends that if the application to amend the Land Use Bylaw and Official Community Plan goes forward to create a regional park over a series of properties at Cape Roger Curtis that:

- No trails leading to or around Fairy Fen Nature Reserves are advertised, placed on public maps or on signage from the regional park;
- Access into the park is not routed via Thompson Road and does not impact Bowen Island Crown Land or the Fairy Fen Nature Reserve;
- There is public education around the sensitivity of the area of the regional park and the surrounding areas to human disturbance especially pertaining to wetlands; and,
- There be a dogs on leash directive for this park.

CARRIED

5.2 Items for Discussion/Direction

5.2.1 Annual Report 2022-23 Changes – Briefing

Communications and Fundraising Specialist Smith presented the briefing, and highlighted changes to format and internal procedures.

Board members commented the briefing was clear.

The meeting recessed for a break at 11:29 a.m. and returned 11:45 a.m.

5.2.2 BC Coastal Marine Strategy Update (verbal)

Chair Smith attended the Coastal Marine Strategy Stakeholder meeting put on by the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), noting they are working on two strategies, the Watershed Security Strategy and the Coastal Marine Strategy. They are conducting engagement and seeking input for two intentions papers:

1) Intentions Paper for the Coastal Marine Strategy (closing April 14, 2023); and,
2) Intentions Paper for the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund (closing April 17, 2023).

Board members discussed requesting the Executive Committee to respond to the request for input into both strategies.

Director Frater advised there is funding through the Healthy Watersheds Initiative to create a portal.

ITC-2023-013
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board request that the Executive Committee request a briefing regarding the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund and provide input on the Watershed Security Strategy by April 17, 2023 and the Coastal Marine Strategy by April 14, 2023.

CARRIED

5.2.3 Islands Trust Conservancy and Local Conservancy Relations

Trustee Scott commented that it would be valuable for Islands Trust Conservancy Board and staff to attend local community events, such as the Herring Fest that just occurred on Hornby Island. Trustee Scott suggested that the ITC Communication Specialist and staff could assist with making connections.

Trustee Yates noted that board members can be good liaisons with conservancy groups on their islands, noting that sending staff members is costly both financially and in terms of staff time.

Board members discussed cost of sending Board members and staff to events, Board roles, deferring outreach until next year and advertising events in the Heron Newsletter.

Manager Emmings highlighted various ways ITC is working on outreach including the Heron Newsletter, social media postings, eNews, and the land monitoring program, and suggested staff could share event emails with ITC Board members.

5.3 Correspondence

5.3.1 Victoria Foundation - Cereus Fund Grant Letter, dated 2023-02-27

Received for information.

5.4 Updates for Information

5.4.1 Public Acquisitions Report

Received for information.

5.4.2 Public Covenants Report

Received for information.

5.4.3 Budget Report

Manager Emmings highlighted recent donations to the Opportunity Fund, and advised the audit report is on the agenda for the May 30, 2023 ITC Board meeting.

5.4.4 Executive Committee Update (verbal)

Trustee Elliott advised the last Executive Committee meeting was spent mainly approving agenda for Trust Council. There was a resolution to have Executive Committee work with staff on a strategic coordinated request to the Province to look again at the funding formula.

Board members discussed the importance of a well laid out strategic plan to support the preserve and protect mandate, and meeting to discuss ITC Board strategic priorities prior to the July liaison meeting with Executive Committee.

5.4.5 Financial Planning Committee Update (verbal)

Trustee Yates noted the Financial Planning Committee made clear recommendations to Trust Council on recommended items to cut from the budget. In-person Trust Council meetings were put back on into the budget and Trust Policy Statement work was cut due to diminished staff capacity.

Trustee Elliott and Director Frater provided an update on the Policy Statement amendment timelines.

5.4.6 Trust Council Update (verbal)

Trustee Elliott provided the following Trust Council update:

- The budget passed with a tax increase of 2.06%.

- There were conversations regarding creating a corporate plan instead of programs driven budget, including revising strategic planning and matching corporate planning to budgeting functions.
- There was a delegation that claimed the use of Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem bioregional classification was being used to raise funds for the Islands Trust Conservancy. Trust Council approved a resolution to review materials on the website related to Coastal Douglas-fir. The Conservancy donate buttons have also been removed from the Islands Trust website.

Board members discussed the impact of delegations on staff, response to delegations, and time spent on this particular delegation.

ITC-2023-014
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) Board raise concerns to Executive Committee regarding Trust Council decisions on conservation that have an effect on ITC work about which ITC Board has not had an opportunity to comment.

CARRIED

5.4.7 Trustee Roundtable (time permitting)

Trustee Yates commented that there are drawbacks to the relatively low tax increase that Council approved, there is a forecasted tax increase to the Five-year Financial Plan of 8.78%. When tax increases are artificially kept low by transferring funds from surplus, these low tax increases are passed on to future generations.

Chair Smith advised there was not sufficient time for a full trustee roundtable.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DELGATIONS

A member of the public, Christine, requested to speak but due to technical difficulties was not able. Chair Smith recommend that the member send comments by email to itcmail@islandstrust.bc.ca.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next Islands Trust Conservancy Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 30, 2023, to be conducted electronically.

9. CLOSED MEETING

9.1 Motion to Close the Meeting

ITC-2023-015
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4 Division 3, section: 90 (1) (d) the security of the property of the Islands Trust Conservancy; (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Islands Trust Conservancy Board; and that staff be invited to remain in the meeting. (f) Law enforcement, if the Islands Trust Conservancy Board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment;; and that staff be invited to remain in the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting was closed to the public at 1:42 p.m. and recessed for lunch until 1:30 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

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Risa Smith, Chair

Certified Correct:

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Corlynn Strachan, Administrative Assistant/Recorder