ADOPTED

Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee
Minutes of Special Meeting

Date: January 20, 2022
Location: Electronic Meeting

Members Present: Peter Luckham, Chair
Peter Johnston, Local Trustee
Timothy Peterson, Local Trustee

Staff Present: Heather Kauer, Regional Planning Manager
Dave Olsen, Recorder

Others Present: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Luckham called the meeting to order at 9:16 am. He acknowledged that the meeting was being held in territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent the agenda was approved as presented.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

3.1 Meeting Procedure Bylaw No. 100 - for consideration and decision

Staff introduced the item and the following was noted:

- The Province has changed the legislation to allow regular meetings to be electronic, as well as special meetings.
- Our legal team has reviewed the draft language in the bylaw.
- The legislation allows for the Trustees to attend every meeting electronically.
- We have recommended that at least two meetings be held in person as a "best practice".
- New sections have been added to the recommendations about decorum and public participation.
- Alternatives are provided as well.

The Chair advised that any changes need to be carefully worded.

Discussion ensued among the Trustees and the following was noted:

- Do not want to include the four new sections.
- Do not wish to discourage public participation.
- Have heard a lot of public feedback that is not in support of electronic meetings and the public would vastly prefer us to meet in person whenever possible.
- Important to have a bylaw in place for emergency situations.
- Hope that in practice that we do not use the bylaw.
- Absolutely want to meet in person as a priority and have a requirement to meet in person at a minimum of two times per year.

- Delegations are not the same as Town Hall presentations. Town Hall does not have any restrictions in terms of public participation.
- Decorum regulations are very important for the Chair to ensure that meetings are not disrupted in any manner. By putting them in print, it sets an expectation that the public can understand in advance.
- Do not want the public to comment on this administrative bylaw because we are responsible for the safety of all that attend.
- Want this bylaw to be adopted so that we can meet electronically.
- Only one instance where a meeting was disrupted. This wording gives the impression that this kind of behaviour is expected because it goes on at great length.
- The last time that a delegation presented, the meeting time was moved up to accommodate the speaker.
- It is a good idea to poll the Community.
- This change sets a tone that we want to limit public participation.
- Important that we meet on Lasqueti in person.
- Delegation presentations are asked for in advance because they could say very inappropriate things with disrespectful language. We have to print that information, which means we aid and abet slanderous or even incorrect information. It gives us time to correspond with the delegation to make suggestions on wording changes.
- Decorum rules give the Chair and Trustees something to point to, and that it suggests that we expect the best.
- The infrequency that we meet does not make the advance notice onerous.
- It is about making in person meetings a safe place. Some will be relieved to see this and may come because it is a safe place. We want to foster that.
- The part that offends most is the delegations. Until recently, the agenda noted that it was 'this person' on 'this topic' and they sent us their talk after the meeting. The procedures still do not recommend that.

LA-2022-001
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee remove paragraphs 18 to 28 in the Delegations Section of Draft Bylaw 100, 2022.

DEFEATED

Trustee Johnston began the ensuing discussion and the following was noted:

- Not happy that two meetings have to held in-person; ideally they would all be held on Lasqueti.
- Original version of bylaw says that there had to be a minimum of two meetings per year.

The Chair noted that the opportunity to hold all meetings electronically now exists and that we want to provide notice to the Trustees that not attending in-person meetings is not what we want to do.

Staff noted that this is a placeholder to require a minimum of two meetings to be held in-person per year.

Trustee Peterson noted the following:

- That given our circumstance over the past two years, this could be problematic.
- Instead, would like language that says in-person whenever feasible.
- He would not have wanted to have in-person meetings the past two years.

The Chair noted that we could strike it but then it implies that we do not want in-person meetings.

Staff advised that the existing version does not specify whether meetings need to be in-person or electronic.

The Chair noted that there is consensus on striking “held in-person” in bullet 3.

Trustee Peterson noted that he would like the bylaw to state that we will meet in person whenever practical rather than when convenient.

The Chair noted that bylaws are not advisory.

Staff advised that we do not typically put intent into bylaws and that later in the bylaw there are procedures in place for Trustees to attend electronic meetings with a mechanism that is built-in to make it harder to attend electronically.

Trustees asked why some decisions are by majority and others are by unanimous vote.

Staff advised that decisions by unanimous vote are more difficult to attain.

The Chair gave an example that if you want to change the requirement to waive written notice, you want it to be by unanimous decision.

Trustees noted that bullet 6 doesn’t mention email when all of our communications are by email.

Staff advised that this could be amended.

The Chair noted consensus for adding “or email address” after “mailing address” in bullet 6.

Trustees noted that in the previous bylaw, if the Chair could not attend, a Trustee physically attending would then chair the meeting.

Staff advised that bullet 11 means that if neither the Chair nor the Alternate Chair is able to attend, the staff person will call the meeting to order and the Trustees present decide who will chair the meeting.

The Chair noted consensus to adding to bullet 11: “If the Chair is unable to attend in person, another Trustee be chosen to Chair the meeting at the physical location.”

The Chair noted consensus to delete from bullet 41: “beyond the minimum number of physical meetings identified in Section 3”.

Trustees asked why sections 43, 44 and 45 were included.

The Chair advised that it is to force Trustees to attend a physical meeting.

The Chair noted consensus to delete from the end of Section 45: “provided the waiver does not conflict with provincial legislation and regulation that enables electronic meetings.”

Trustees advised that the time limit in Section 51.3 needed to be longer than 15 minutes.

The Chair noted consensus for 45 minutes.

LA-2022-002
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee amend the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 100, cited as "Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Meeting Procedures Bylaw, 2022", as follows:

1. In Section 3, delete the words "held in-person";
2. In Section 6, add "and email address" following the two occurrences of "mailing address";
3. In Section 11, the words "alternate member" be replaced with "Alternate Chair" and the following sentence added at the end: "For an in person meeting, if the Chair is unable to attend in person, another Trustee shall be chosen to chair the meeting at the physical location."
4. In Section 41, delete the words "beyond the minimum number of physical meetings identified in bullet 3".
5. In Section 45, delete everything after "unanimous resolution" and replace it with a period.
6. In Section 51.3, change 15 minutes to 45 minutes.

CARRIED

LA-2022-003
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 100, cited as "Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Meeting Procedures Bylaw, 2022", as amended, be read a first time.

CARRIED

LA-2022-004
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 100, cited as "Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Meeting Procedures Bylaw, 2022", as amended, be read a second time.

CARRIED

LA-2022-005
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 100, cited as "Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Meeting Procedures Bylaw, 2022", as amended, be read a third time.

CARRIED

LA-2022-006
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 100, cited as "Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Meeting Procedures Bylaw, 2022", as amended, be forwarded to the Secretary of the Islands Trust for approval by the Executive Committee.

CARRIED

Staff introduced the last recommendation and the following was noted:

- She advised that the way that electronic meetings are currently being conducted will continue if a new staff position is not hired, and would limit public participation.
- This would mean that we could stream but not have Town Halls.
- Now is the time to ask Trust Council (TC) for a new staff person since the budget will be approved in March.

Trustees asked if this new staff person would do other tasks.

Staff advised that the person would attend every meeting for its entirety but would exclude Advisory Planning Committee meetings.

Trustees noted that not having any possibility of public participation is a big concern, but were not convinced by the business case at TC.

The Chair noted that this is our opportunity for us to ask TC to reconsider that decision.

LA-2022-007
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee request that Trust Council consider adding a full time staff position to the 2022/23 Fiscal year budget for electronic meeting support.

The Chair advised that this staff person would not be sitting idle but would relieve planning staff of some administrative tasks.

Trustee Johnston noted the following:

- That he is not convinced that this is the only way to do this.
- That it would be the most expensive way to do this.
- He would like to explore hiring a local contractor for each meeting.

The Chair responded and the following was noted:

- It is not possible to find minute-takers on some islands and it is not appropriate for the minute-taker to take on this role.
- Internet connectivity is not as reliable on the islands as it is at our offices.

CARRIED

4. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 am.

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Peter Luckham, Chair

Certified Correct:

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Dave Olsen, Recorder