



Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Date: December 16, 2024
Location: Judith Fisher Centre
 #1 China Cloud Bay Road
 Lasqueti Island, BC

Members Present: Tobi Elliott, Chair (electronic)
 Timothy Peterson, Local Trustee
 Mikaila Lironi, Local Trustee (electronic)

Staff Present Stefan Cermak, Director Planning Services (electronic)
 Stephen Baugh, Island Planner (electronic)
 Lisa Millard, Meeting Administrator/Recorder (electronic)

Others Present: There were approximately four members of the public in attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Elliott called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. She acknowledged that the meeting was held on the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

By general consent, Trustee Peterson will act as meeting Chair.

Acting Chair Peterson stated a Resolution Without Meeting had been conducted to permit two trustees to attend the in-person meeting electronically.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acting Chair Peterson acknowledged that the meeting was held on the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations and treaty territory of the Tla'amin Nation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following addition to the agenda was presented for consideration:

12.1 Crown Land Lease Referrals

By general consent, the agenda was adopted as amended.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Trustee Reports

Trustee Elliott reported the following:

- Attended Trust Council and highlighted presence of incoming Chief Administrative Officer and Mayor of Bowen Island Municipality, retirement of legal council Bill Buholzer, and session with representatives from San Juan County; and

- Ongoing participation at Committee of the Whole meetings to discuss draft Policy Statement.

Trustee Lironi did not provide a report.

4.2 Chair's Report

Acting Chair Peterson reported the following:

- Attended Trust Council and noted Minister of State Brittney Anderson and Minister of Development and Poverty Reduction Sheila Malcolmson joined new Chief Administrative Officer Rueben Bronee and others for dinner;
- Committee of the Whole meetings will be held to review the 2022 Governance Report and the Standards of Conduct Policy; and
- Ongoing attendance at Transport Canada's Oceans Protection Plan forums.

4.3 Electoral Area Director's Report

Director Fall reported the following:

- Regional District budget process has started;
- Discussions and town hall meeting conversations regarding long-term planning for Lasqueti Island Volunteer Fire Department for the replacement of the fire engine and renovation, or replacement, of the main fire hall; and
- He will be reporting on the decision regarding the Connected Coast landing site at an upcoming Regional District meeting.

5. TOWN HALL

A member of the public spoke to the following:

- In July they noted the term "freshwater" had been replaced with "potable water" in the Official Community Plan Review draft and reiterated their request that the language be changed back to freshwater;
- Importance of community receiving information and expressing opinion on the Connected Coast application;
- Would like minutes to include the name of the member of the public who is speaking during Town Hall.
 - Acting Chair Peterson noted minute taking guidelines have changed and names are no longer included.

A member of the public made the following comments:

- Meeting agenda was not posted a full week in advance which undermines the democratic process;
- Agenda addendum staff report summary says trustees and staff have reported concerns about inappropriate conduct by individuals attending the Local Trust Committee meetings resulting in impacts to personal safety, mental health, and wellbeing and they would like an example of a behaviour or comment that might constitute bullying or harassment;
- Two trustees are attending the meeting electronically which is a violation of the Meeting Procedure Bylaw;
- Previously staff had indicated the only way to change a land use bylaw is through an application or from direction of trustees; however, staff tried to change a land use bylaw by recommending that all utilities be allowed in all zones and they asked if trustees feel it

necessary to confirm that staff do not have authority to alter the land use bylaw on their own initiative;

- Would like the Local Trust Committee to confirm how the Connected Coast applicant will provide power to the fibre optic cable without the use of solar panels;
- Previously the Chair had stated Islands Trust had incorporated requests from First Nations to extend referral periods to ninety days and asked if the Local Trust Committee is going to honour the extended period for the Connected Coast application; and
- Inquired how allowing high speed internet on a rural island supports the mandate to preserve and protect the island.
 - Trustee Elliott noted website issues had resulted in document attachment problems in the past weeks;
 - Acting Chair Peterson replied as follows:
 - He was not privy to specific instances of harassment but would seek consent prior to sharing any details and he provided a recent example of improper meeting decorum during which the member of the public spoke outside of the Town Hall session and had to be asked three times to stop;
 - Restated the comment he made at the beginning of the meeting in which the Local Trust Committee passed a Resolution Without Meeting permitting two trustees to attend an in-person meeting electronically;
 - Staff can make recommendations and provide advice regarding applications while local elected officials make the decisions; and
 - Responses to comments and questions regarding the Connected Coast application will be forthcoming when the application is discussed.

A member of the public spoke to the following:

- Previously requested the minutes be corrected to note they had been ejected from a Local Trust Committee meeting;
- The request to amend the minutes was noted in subsequent minutes but the original minutes had not been changed;
- Inquired who initiated the agenda addendum staff report and if they are one of the specific individuals the report refers to; and
- Inquired what authority is provided to the Executive Committee to censor meeting recordings or grants the Executive Committee power to remove public recordings.
 - Acting Chair Peterson indicated that he is unsure if minutes can be changed once adopted, discussion about the staff report can be had when the item comes up in the agenda, and legislation requires meeting minutes be available to the public but there is no obligation to post videos.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Local Trust Committee Minutes dated October 21, 2024 - for adoption

By general consent, the minutes of the Lasqueti Local Trust Committee Meeting of October 21, 2024 were adopted.

6.2 Section 26 Resolutions-Without-Meeting Report dated December 9, 2024 Received for information.

6.3 Advisory Planning Commission Minutes - none

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

7.1 Follow-up Action List dated December 9, 2024

Received for information.

8. APPLICATIONS AND REFERRALS

8.1 PLRZ20240104 (Connected Coast) - Staff Report

The Planner summarized the staff report and highlighted the following:

- Applicant has amended the application and provided a new site plan showing the fibre optic cable terminating near the natural boundary of the sea;
- Earthquake sensor and solar panels are no longer proposed as part of the project;
- Bylaw is site specific to only allow the use of the fibre optic cable in locations proposed within the Connected Coast project; and
- First reading of the bylaw will allow public consultation and referral process to begin.

The applicant was in attendance and noted the installation of solar panels would be applied for, and installed, if the last mile project comes into effect.

Discussion ensued and the following comments and clarifications were noted:

- Connected Coast has conducted a full engagement referral as per provincial application requirements and has engaged with First Nations since 2021;
- Trustees would like to hear from the community regarding the application;
- There is opportunity to conduct a Public Hearing and move the bylaw to the Executive Committee by the end of February;
- Option to use high speed internet is by individual choice and it can support a healthy and resilient community; and
- Reduced referral period is generally not supported but is in line with statutory requirements and can be considered as the applicant has done their own referral process.

LA-2024-017

It was MOVED and SECONDED

that the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 104, cited as "Lasqueti Island Land Use Bylaw No. 78, 2005, Amendment No. 2, 2024", be read a first time.

CARRIED

LA-2024-018

It was MOVED and SECONDED

that the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee has reviewed the Islands Trust Policy Statement Directives Only Checklist and determined that Bylaw No. 104, cited as "Lasqueti Island Land Use Bylaw No. 78, 2005, Amendment No. 2, 2024" is not contrary to or at variance with the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

CARRIED

LA-2024-019

It was MOVED and SECONDED

that the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee request staff to refer Bylaw No. 104 to the following First Nations, agencies, and organizations with referral period of 30 days: Cowichan Tribes, Da'naxada'xw First Nation, Halalt First Nation, K'omoks First Nation, Lyackson First Nation, Mamalilikulla First Nation, Nanwakolas Council, Penelakut Tribe, Qualicum First Nation, Snaw-Naw-As First Nation, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Stz'uminus First Nation, Te'mexw Treaty Association, Tla'amin Nation, Tlowitsis Nation, Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation, We Wai Kai Nation, Wei Wai Kum Nation, qathet Regional District, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Lasqueti Advisory Planning Commission, and the Lasqueti Internet Access Society.

CARRIED

LA-2024-020

It was MOVED and SECONDED

that the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee request staff to schedule a Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 104, cited as "Lasqueti Island Land Use Bylaw No. 78, 2005, Amendment No. 2, 2024".

CARRIED

9. LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE PROJECTS

9.1 Minor Project: Official Community Plan Review - verbal update

The Planner provided a verbal update and noted that due to the extended engagement process with Snaw-naw-as First Nation, and the Local Trust Committee's request for a major project to review the Official Community Plan, staff will bring options for a minor project to a future meeting for trustee's consideration.

A member of the public enquired about the use of the term "potable water" in the Official Community Plan and the Planner stated the Local Trust Committee can propose an amendment to the language used should they desire to do so.

10. DELEGATIONS - none

11. CORRESPONDENCE

(Correspondence received concerning current applications or projects is posted to the LTC webpage)

11.1 Email dated November 25, 2024 from Trustee Peterson regarding the Dock at False Bay

Discussion ensued.

LA-2024-021

It was MOVED and SECONDED

that Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee request the Chair to send a letter to the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans Canada requesting that the dock at False Bay be considered for the next round of funding for dock repair and reconstruction.

CARRIED

12. NEW BUSINESS – none

12.1 Crown Land Lease Referrals

Acting Chair Peterson made the following comments:

- Another Local Trust Committee recently received a Crown lease referral that was replied to by staff and there had been public expectation that the Local Trust Committee ought to have had input in to the referral response; and
- The Executive Committee is looking at the Crown lease referral process to provide options for consideration; however, it might be prudent to be proactive in the interim so staff are aware the Local Trust Committee would like to see Crown referrals.

LA-2024-022

It was MOVED and SECONDED

that the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to provide the Local Trust Committee with Crown land lease referrals with sufficient time for consideration of response and that they be added to the applications report.

CARRIED

13. STAFF REPORTS

13.1 Draft 2025/26 Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Annual Meeting Schedule - Request for Decision

Discussion ensued and it was noted that preference is for all meetings to be held in-person.

LA-2024-023

It was MOVED and SECONDED

that Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee approve their January, 2025 to March, 2026 Meeting Schedule.

CARRIED

13.2 Strategy for Antenna Systems - Staff Report

The Planner summarized the report which recommends the Local Trust Committee standing resolution on First Nations engagement for proposed antenna systems be incorporated into the Lasqueti Antenna System Strategy.

LA-2024-024

It was MOVED and SECONDED

that the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee adopt the “Strategy for Antenna Systems: Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee”, dated December 16, 2024.

CARRIED

LA-2024-025

It was MOVED and SECONDED

that resolution LA-2023-027 be rescinded.

CARRIED

The meeting was recessed for a break at 12:53 p.m. and reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

13.3 Trust Conservancy Highlights of November 26, 2024 Board Meeting
Received for information.

13.4 Applications Report dated December 9, 2024
Received for information.

13.5 Trustee and Local Expense Report dated October, 2024
Received for information.

13.6 Adopted Policies and Standing Resolutions
Received for information.

13.7 First Nations Relationship Building Update - none

13.8 Local Trust Committee Webpage
No updates required at this time.

13.9 Public Conduct During Business Meetings – Staff Report

The Director of Planning Services summarized the staff report and highlighted the following:

- Report initiated through discussion with Chair of Trust Council;
- Lasqueti Local Trust Committee meetings are chaired professionally, yet active participation of community members has, at times, caused undue stress;
- Meeting decorum needs to be maintained to provide sense of safety and wellbeing and ensure business can be done without interruption; and
- Report provides a series of options to address issues of decorum.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were noted:

- Members of the Local Trust Committee and staff can only function in a community if there is an agreement on how to cooperate and work together;
- Challenges experienced as Chair of the Local Trust Committee include a trend of declining decorum, expressed concerns about personal safety, inappropriate outbursts during the meeting, personal commentary about trustees, lack of respect for the Chair, not heeding the Chair's calls for order, needing to ask members of the public to abide by procedures such as not engaging in debate, speaking out of turn and limiting remarks to the allotted time, and making disparaging, mocking or discourteous remarks;
- General pattern of behaviour is not conducive to good decision making nor to a safe and respectful workplace,
- Role of Chair is to preserve order at Local Trust Committee meetings;
- The Local Trust Committee has relaxed some of the Meeting Procedures Bylaw requirements such as limiting the public participation period to fifteen minutes and allowing a member of the public three minutes to address the Local Trust Committee;
- The meetings have deteriorated to the point that they are unpleasant for Trustees, staff, and the public to attend; and
- Consensus to enforce Meeting Procedures Bylaw as a first step.

LA-2024-026

It was MOVED and SECONDED

that the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee ensures a safe working and meeting space by enforcing proper public meeting decorum by applying the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Meeting Procedures Bylaw.

CARRIED

14. WORK PROGRAM

14.1 Active Projects Report dated December 9, 2024

Received for information.

14.2 Future Projects Report dated December 9, 2024

Received for information.

15. UPCOMING MEETINGS

15.1 Next Regular Meeting Scheduled to be held in-person February 10, 2025 at the Judith Fisher Centre, #1 China Cloud Bay Road, Lasqueti Island, BC.

16. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Timothy Peterson, Acting Chair

Certified Correct:

Lisa Millard, Meeting Administrator/Recorder