



Policy:	4.1.15
Approved By:	Trust Council
Approval Date:	June 22, 2022
Amendment Date(s):	
Policy Holder:	Director of Planning

DELEGATION OF LAND USE PERMITS

Purpose

To provide policy for local trust committee consideration of the delegation of the power to issue certain land use permits to staff.

Principles

1. Local trust committee delegation of the issuance of development permits to staff is intended to improve overall efficiency, reduce the number of items on local trust committee agendas and streamline processing of permits.
2. Delegation may be warranted as the scope of determining the approval or refusal of permits is determined by consistency with guidelines adopted by local trust committees.
3. Delegation of the power to issue development permits to staff has been recommended by external reviews, and amendments to the *Islands Trust Regulation* now provide local trust committees with the authority to delegate the issuance of development permits to staff.
4. The delegation of the issuance of development permits to staff by local trust committees should only be implemented where development permit area provisions are consistent with the criteria outlined in this policy.
5. The delegation of the power to issue minor development variance permits to staff may be considered by future amendment of this policy and amendment of delegation bylaws.

A. Definitions

B. Policy

1. Delegation by Bylaw

- 1.1 Delegation of the power to issue development permits may only be implemented by the adoption of a delegation bylaw by a local trust committee.
- 1.2 Delegation bylaws adopted by local trust committees should be substantially consistent with the bylaw template attached to this policy.
- 1.3 A delegation bylaw should only delegate to staff the power to issue permits for development permit areas (DPA) that meet the criteria outlined in this policy.

- 1.4 A delegation bylaw should only delegate the authority to issue permits to the Director and in their absence to Regional Planning Managers.
 - 1.5 The staff person reviewing the application shall not also approve or refuse the permit.
 - 1.6 A delegation bylaw should not delegate authority to issue form and character development permits except where a local trust committee considers the guidelines to be sufficiently objective.
 - 1.7 A delegation bylaw should not delegate permits requiring variances unless the local trust committee has also delegated the issuance of minor development variance permits to staff.
 - 1.8 The bylaw must include the opportunity for the owner of the land subject to the decision to have the local trust committee reconsider the decision.
- 2. Local trust committees should only consider delegation of issuance of permits to staff for development permit areas that meet the following criteria:**
- 2.1 The development permit area provisions are relatively current.
 - 2.2 A development approval information bylaw has been adopted, or the application requirements are equivalent (e.g. a DPA enacted consistent with the *Riparian Area Protection Regulation* or geo-technical hazard area DPA).
 - 2.3 Professional reports can be required to provide an assessment of impacts and to recommend measures that can be included as conditions of a permit.
 - 2.4 Guidelines have been assessed by staff to be relatively thorough, clear, current and certain.
- 3. Local Planning Services staff should prioritize drafting of delegation bylaws for:**
- 3.1 Local trust committees that have indicated support for delegation.
 - 3.2 Local trust committees that receive higher volumes of permit applications.
- 4. Local Planning Services shall implement the following procedures where delegation has been authorized by a local trust committee bylaw:**
- 4.1 Checklists for compliance or non-compliance with guidelines for each DPA shall be prepared prior to implementing delegation.
 - 4.2 The local trust committee shall be provided with a copy of permit applications and copied on the decision to issue or to refuse a permit.
 - 4.3 Where the planner reviewing the application determines that the application does not comply with one or more of the guidelines, applicants shall be provided with advice as to why the application does not comply and shall be given the opportunity to revise the application before a decision to issue or refuse the application is made.

- 4.4 The planner reviewing an application shall provide the checklist, draft permit and a written recommendation with reasons to the Director or Regional Planning Manager prior to the delegate making a decision to approve or refuse issuance of a permit.
- 4.5 Where the Director or Regional Planning Manager determines that an application is contrary to one or more of the guidelines, the application shall be refused unless the delegate is satisfied that the permit would be consistent with the overall objectives of the development permit area, that the non-compliance is minor, and that compliance with the guideline would result in the application being contrary to other, more relevant guidelines.
- 4.6 If issuance of a permit is refused, the owner of the subject property shall be provided written reasons for the refusal and informed of the opportunity to request a reconsideration by the local trust committee.
- 4.7 The Director may recommend that an applicant for a refused permit apply for reconsideration by the local trust committee.
- 4.8 Procedures for reconsideration, consistent with the bylaw, shall be established by the Director.

C. Legislated References

Local Government Act sections 229 [delegation of authority], 230 [bylaw required for delegation], 232 [reconsideration of delegate's decision] 490(5) [development permits: general authority] and 498.1 [delegation of power to issue development variance permit].

BC Reg 119/90 as amended by *B.C. Reg 275/21* [delegation of authority]

D. Attachment:

Attachment A: Delegation Bylaw Template

ATTACHMENT A
Delegation Bylaw Template

_____ **ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE**

BYLAW NO. xxx, 20xx

A bylaw of the _____ Island Local Trust Committee to Delegate the Power to Issue Certain Land Use Permits

The _____ Island Local Trust Committee, being the Local Trust Committee having jurisdiction in respect of the _____ Island Local Trust Area under the *Islands Trust Act*, enacts as follows:

SHORT TITLE

1. This bylaw may be cited as “ _____ Island Local Trust Committee Delegation Bylaw No. XXX, 20XX”.

DEFINITIONS

2. In this bylaw:

“**Act**” means the Local Government Act.

“**Local Trust Committee**” means the _____ Island Local Trust Committee.

“**Director**” means the Director of Local Planning Services.

“**Regional Planning Manager**” means the Manager assigned to the Local Trust Committee.

DELEGATION

3. The Local Trust Committee hereby delegates to the Director, or in his or her absence the Regional Planning Manager, the power to issue a development permit or a development permit amendment under Section 490 of the Act in respect of development permits issued within the following development permit areas:

- a. Development Permit Area X;

4. The delegation under Section 3 does not include the authority to vary or supplement a land use regulation or a subdivision regulation.
5. The Director, or in his or her absence the Regional Planning Manager, is also delegated the power to require, under Section 502 of the Act, an applicant to provide security in an amount stated in the Permit by way of an irrevocable letter of credit or the deposit of securities in a form satisfactory to the Director.
6. The amount of security to be provided under Section 502 of the Act, in relation to a development permit issued by the delegate, shall be 125% of the cost of site restoration, landscaping, remediation of damage to the natural environment or improvements including materials and installation, as determined by a professional landscape architect, a nursery person, a landscape contractor, a habitat biologist, or another person approved by the Director to provide.
7. For clarity, a person to whom a power, duty or function has been delegated under this bylaw has no authority to further delegate to another person any power, duty or function that has been delegated by this Bylaw.

RECONSIDERATION

8. An applicant may have a decision of the delegate in relation to a permit reconsidered by the Local Trust Committee by submitting a written request for reconsideration to the Deputy Secretary within thirty days after the decision is delivered to or made available to the applicant.
9. The request for reconsideration must include the following:
 - a. the applicant's address for receiving correspondence related to the request for reconsideration;
 - b. a copy of the written decision;
 - c. reasons why the applicant wishes the decision to be reconsidered by the Local Trust Committee;
 - d. the decision which the applicant requests be made by the Local Trust Committee;
 - e. reasons in support of the decision requested from the Local Trust Committee; and
 - f. a copy of any documents which support the applicant's request for reconsideration by the Local Trust Committee.
10. Each reconsideration request shall be placed on the agenda of a regular Local Trust Committee meeting and shall include a copy of the materials that were considered by the delegate in making the decision that is to be reconsidered and any further materials delivered by the owner.
11. The Local Trust Committee may consider any presentations made by the applicant and may either:
 - a. confirm all or part of the delegate's decision,
 - b. set aside all or part of the delegate's decision; or
 - c. amend the delegate's decision or make a new decision.

SCOPE OF BYLAW

12. For clarity, subject to the *Act*, unless a power, duty or function of the Local Trust Committee has been expressly delegated by this Bylaw or another bylaw, all of the powers, duties and functions of the Local Trust Committee remain with the Local Trust Committee.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS _____TH DAY OF _____, 20XX.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS _____TH DAY OF _____, 20XX.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS _____TH DAY OF _____, 20XX.

APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS TRUST THIS _____TH DAY OF _____, 20XX

ADOPTED THIS _____TH DAY OF _____, 20XX.

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY