



**Islands Trust**

700 North Road, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X3  
Telephone 250-247-2063 Fax 250-247-7514  
Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 660-2421. Elsewhere in BC **1.800.663.7867**  
Email [northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
Web [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

October 31, 2022

File No. DE-6410-03; 3070-03-CVRD; 0110-20-LTC Chairs

Via email: [reachme@danielarbour.ca](mailto:reachme@danielarbour.ca)

Director Daniel Arbour  
Comox Valley Regional District  
770 Harmston Avenue  
Courtenay, BC  
V9N 0G8

Dear Director Arbour:

**Re: Priority for Trail Construction on Denman - General Store to Community Hall**

I am writing on behalf of the Denman Island Local Trust Committee to ask the Comox Valley Regional District to include a path from the General Store to the Community Hall on Denman Island, for cyclists and pedestrians, as a priority for trail construction and maintenance. Up until about five years ago there was a pathway, created and maintained by residents. It was widely used but eventually was left to grow over.

The reasoning of the Denman Island Local Trust Committee for this request is as follows:

- This would contribute to an active transportation network, creating connectivity between the start of the Cross Island Trail and the Piercy Road Park as well as the Piercy Road stairway to the beach.
- This will create safer, more inviting, and more accessible options for non-motorized transportation, and will improve beach access and use.
- An active transportation network approach could reduce car dependency, aiding affordability and reducing carbon emissions.
- This would be a short and thus inexpensive path that likely would see heavy use.
- The trail would also connect many well-used Denman Island amenities, including the Arts Centre, elementary school, preschool, General Store, Community Hall, library, playground, sports field (which is used for major events such as the Fall Fair and soccer tournament), the new site of the food bank and community computer access venue, and future site of the covered recreation space.
- Currently, pedestrians often walk on the road, posing safety concerns.
- The following Denman Island Official Community Plan policies support this trail:
  - D2 Objective 4: To plan for future land use patterns that encourage transportation networks, consisting of both roads and trails, and serving social, environmental and aesthetic purposes
  - D2 Objective 8: To develop and maintain new trails for public use
  - D2 Objective 9: To improve beach and lake access for public pedestrian use
  - D2 Policy 14: A trail system that provides a safe and inviting link between neighbourhoods and destination points should be supported
  - D2 Policy 15: The development of trails along new and existing roads in the road right-of-way should be supported as a means of providing safe non-vehicular access. A trail system

*Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea*

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

Director Daniel Arbour

October 24, 2022

Page 2

should be constructed that is safe and inviting, that parallels existing and new roads and that does not alter the rural character of the road.

Furthermore, the Denman Island Downtown Charrette, 2018, which was a process by the Islands Trust in partnership with Vancouver Island University planning students, recommended as an action item “expanded walkability and connectivity...to create connected space throughout the downtown core.” The resulting report stated that public engagement identified better connectivity via paths as something that needs improvement, and “pedestrian/car conflict” as a significant weakness in the downtown village area.

In case it is of interest, the Capital Regional District has had success with path development on Salt Spring through MOTI licences of occupation and partnerships with volunteer groups. Our staff would be pleased to connect you with the appropriate people if you would like to learn more.

Construction of a pathway from the General Store to the Community Hall would significantly improve safety, walkability, and access to the beach and to other trails. Please consider including this in your trail construction plans as a priority.

Sincerely,



Sue Ellen Fast

Chair Denman Island Local Trust Committee

cc.

Denman Island Local Trust Committee

Islands Trust Executive Committee

Islands Trust website