



ADOPTED

Saturna Island Local Trust Committee Minutes of Regular Meeting

Date: April 21, 2016
Location: Saturna Recreation and Cultural Centre
104 Harris Road, Saturna Island, BC

Members Present George Grams, Chair
Paul Brent, Local Trustee
Lee Middleton, Local Trustee

Staff Present Gary Richardson, Island Planner
Pat Todd, Recorder

There were approximately five (5) members of the public present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Grams called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm. He acknowledged that the meeting was being held in traditional territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following additions to the agenda were presented for consideration:

- 13.1 Anchorages in Southern Gulf Islands
- 13.2 Request For Decision Annual Report

By general consent the agenda was adopted as amended.

3. TOWN HALL AND QUESTIONS

P. Carney requested the spelling of her name be corrected on page 3 of the February 18 minutes. She also asked that submissions/correspondence to LTC be attached to minutes – being attached to the website is insufficient.

There was a discussion as to accuracy of information presented at the meeting under Item 10.

Chair Grams clarified that minutes are a record of what was stated at the meeting. Any subsequent dispute regarding inaccuracies of statements should be addressed via correspondence to the LTC.

A. Sewell asked that the information from the recent survey be condensed to give a clearer profile of island population.

Planner Richardson will prepare an Executive Summary.

J. Hutchison also commented on the difficulty in reading survey results in the current format.

P. Carney referred to correspondence from February and a subsequent letter regarding availability of minutes from the Town Hall meeting.

Planner Richardson stated that there had been difficulties with the electronic recorder and that staff and the Trustees are compiling the information from this meeting.

P. Carney stated that she will give the correspondence to the Planner and would like assurance that comments made become part of the official report.

4. COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

none

5. PUBLIC HEARING

none

6. MINUTES

6.1 Local Trust Committee Minutes Dated February 18, 2016 (for Adoption)

The following amendments to the minutes were presented for consideration:
Page 3 – 10.1: 4th. Paragraph. Planner Richardson read aloud Pat Carney...

By general consent the minutes were adopted as amended.

6.2 Section 26 Resolutions-without-meeting Report

none

6.3 Advisory Planning Commission Minutes Dated

none

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

7.1 Follow-up Action List Dated April 2016

Planner Richardson reported on follow up action items.

8. DELEGATIONS

none

9. CORRESPONDENCE

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

none

10. APPLICATIONS AND REFERRALS

11. LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE PROJECTS

11.1 Density Review - Staff Report

Planner Richardson stated that this had been discussed at the Round Table on March 12 and a number of options were presented. The LTC now needs to decide on how it wants to proceed.

Trustee Brent suggested forming a Special Committee and spoke of some possible candidates who would be representative of the community.

Staff stated that this could be accomplished through the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) – either the existing APC or a sub-committee of the APC. Terms of Reference would need to be prepared.

Chair Grams offered assistance in drafting the Terms of Reference and suggested Trustees contact candidates regarding interest in participating.

Trustee Middleton said that information could be presented at the May Round Table.

Planner Richardson stated he could draft Terms of Reference.

J. Hutchinson spoke to the importance of looking at historical information prior to going forward.

P. Carney, while not interested in being on committee, spoke to her participation on various Official Community Plans (OCP) and committees and questioned the possibility of conflict of interest for committee members.

Chair Grams stated that there would be established criteria for candidates and Trustees would review applicants. Participants can excuse themselves from votes that involve conflict of interest.

A. Sewell felt this process would be a foolish endeavour. Take the survey results; identify objectives, and frame the project based on objectives. Group consensus is unlikely.

Trustee Middleton spoke to the need to review density transfer mechanisms within the OCP.

Trustee Brent supported the need for historical perspective and the use of the survey data in future planning.

D. Wood stated the importance of knowing why items are drafted as is and to use the information in conjunction with Planner reports.

Chair Grams informed the LTC that Salt Spring Island (SSI) had found a professional facilitator to be of value.

SA-2016-006

It was Moved and Seconded

that the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to prepare a terms of reference to allow for the review and community consultation via a Special Advisory Planning Commission to discuss density transfer options outlined in the Density Transfer Discussion Paper dated February 2016.

CARRIED

Trustee Middleton questioned if the project could be completed in six months.

Planner Richardson stated it would be adequate to complete the project. The Terms of Reference will be available at the Round Table in May for information and recruitment of committee members.

There was discussion as to the structure of the May meeting.

11.2 Community Profile - Staff Memo & Survey Results

Planner Richardson addressed the survey results and stated there would be further analysis of the data.

There was a discussion as to possible formats of data. A synopsis of statistics would be easier to review/interpret/identify broad themes. Trustees will give staff formats of data analysis they have used.

Information will be presented in May with a summary document being presented at the June meeting.

11.3 Water Resource Protection – Update

Planner Richardson spoke to the recent report by Dr. D. Allen on groundwater in the Southern Gulf Islands. A presentation by Dr. Allen to the LTC might be helpful.

There was discussion as to format of the presentation.

Planner Richardson will extend an invitation to Dr. Allen and the structure of the presentation will be determined pending her availability. This session could be opened to other islands.

SA-2016-007

It was Moved and Seconded

that Saturna Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to invite Dr. D. Allen to speak at an appropriate meeting and that her reasonable expenses be reimbursed.

CARRIED

12. REPORTS

12.1 Work Program Reports (attached)

12.1.1 Top Priorities Report Dated April 2016

Planner Richardson will update actions.

12.1.2 Projects List Report Dated April 2016

Projects List is ongoing.

12.2 Applications Report

none

12.3 Trustee and Local Expense Report Dated March 2016 (attached)

12.4 Adopted Policies and Standing Resolutions (attached)

Received for information.

12.5 Local Trust Committee Webpage

Scribbler information has been sent to Regina to be put on the website.

P. Carney questioned if recent water supply report on Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove could be on site.

Trustee Brent will send a link to staff.

12.6 Chair's Report

Chair Grams reported that the 2016/17 budget had been approved at Trust Council and that there is zero effect for property taxes. The CAO is settling in well. The Chair raised concerns as to marine issues and informed those present that the Islands Trust (IT) is hiring an advisor, on a two year term, to look at threats and what is needed to mitigate them; and be effective in advocacy. He also supported the importance of working with First Nations. Executive Committee is meeting in June on N. Pender. There are a number of presentations on April 23 to celebrate Earth Day. Salt Spring Island (SSI) Watershed is continuing and N. Pender is progressing in the review of secondary suites being permitted.

12.7 Trustee Report

Trustee Brent spoke of attendance at Trust Council on Hornby Island. Affordable housing is becoming an issue for the islands and there will be a forum in June at Cowichan Bay. The Islands Trust (IT) head office relocation is progressing. Consideration is being given to locating the Southern Planning Team to Sidney, which would allow easier movement inter-island. This relocation could lead to possible employment opportunities for the islands.

Trustee Middleton informed the LTC that there are plans to redevelop the Sidney dock area which include a proposed scheduled foot passenger transit for the islands. IT has authorized a two-year temporary staff position to liaise with First Nations and to identify marine issues. He will be attending a Solar Power conference on April 23 on Salt Spring Island (SSI).

P. Carney spoke to the difficulties of dealing with marine issues due Regional Districts having no authority and the various Ministries involved. She questioned if the relocation of offices is related to the possibility of SSI leaving IT. Trustee Middleton responded that the impetus is to bring dollars from the islands back to the islands. He also informed those present that the new IT CAO is Russ Hotsenpiller.

A. Sewell spoke in support of previous comments relating to marine issues.

Trustee Middleton stated that IT is positioned to make an attempt to motivate cross jurisdiction.

P. Carney spoke in support of Regional Districts having authority and offered her expertise.

J. Hutchison stated that advocacy can bring about positive change and that it may be premature to hire at this time.

12.8 Trust Fund Board Report Dated March 2016

Received for information.

13. NEW BUSINESS

13.1 Request for Decision

SA-2016-008

It was Moved and Seconded

that the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee approves the attached text for inclusion in the 2015-2016 Annual Report for approval by Trust Council and submission to the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

CARRIED

13.2 Anchorages

Trustee Middleton spoke of concerns regarding anchorages/proposed anchorages within area and Strait of Georgia. Residents are very concerned. These anchorages pose significant risks to the islands and disruption to island communities. Gabriola residents have formed Gabriola Anchorage, which has addressed concerns to the Minister and Trust Council. While the best course of action is unclear, the island communities are the best informed as to the health of “their” waters and action is urgently required.

Trustee Brent stated that there was a meeting in November being chaired by Elizabeth May regarding anchorages and that the City of Nanaimo has a tracking system. There are options to anchoring such as slow steaming to lessen anchorages and conserve fuel. Plumper Sound is not appropriate for larger vessels, which is why the proposed sites are off Gabriola.

P. Carney added that slowing down is consistent with orca research however again the issue is multijurisdictional. Also it is easier to address issues through an existing agency rather than creating another agency. It would also be beneficial to reopen communications stations such as the Coast Guard stations that were recently closed.

A. Sewell noted that while anchorages may be necessary it is critical that oil spill response is in place and active.

J. Hutchison spoke of empathy with Gabriola and questioned anchorages during winter storms.

Trustee Brent replied that vessels would move out in the case of severe weather.

14. UPCOMING MEETINGS

14.1 Next Regular Meeting Scheduled for May 21, 2016, at 12:30 pm (Community Roundtable), at the Saturna Island Community Hall

15. TOWN HALL

A. Sewell questioned if the Trust had been approached by the Heritage Ministry. Development process is significantly delayed due to lack of a formal agreement between Trust and Ministry.

16. CLOSED MEETING

none

17. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

George Grams, Chair

Certified Correct:

Pat Todd, Recorder