



ADOPTED

Saturna Island Local Trust Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Date: May 20, 2021
Location: Electronic Meeting

Members Present: Laura Patrick, Chair
Lee Middleton, Local Trustee
Paul Brent, Local Trustee

Staff Present: Brad Smith, Island Planner
Lauren Edwards, Recorder
Maple Hung, Planning Assistant (Host)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patrick called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. She acknowledged that the meeting was being held in traditional territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

She was pleased that many organizations take effort to reach out and work with indigenous people, and noted that the Salt Spring Island Arts Council invited indigenous artists throughout the Coast Salish First Nation to their annual art event. Organizations that consider how to better work with indigenous people are appreciated.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following additions to the agenda were presented for consideration:

Discuss under New Business a suggestion to provide educational outreach for new residents.

By general consent, the agenda was adopted as amended.

3. TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Brent reported that there is a great deal of respect and support in the community during the pandemic and under health orders.

Trustee Middleton reported on the following:

- He attended a meeting three weeks ago with the Southern Gulf Islands National Park Reserve Advisory Committee; he reported that the Committee provided an update to the Park Reserve's activities for the summer; that a new park superintendent is being hired; and that the Park Liaison Committee is in hiatus as the federal government works to identify partnerships with First Nations on whose territory the park resides; and

- He has worked with the Select Committee on Governance and Management Review who has hired a qualified consultant team, and a report will be forthcoming to Trust Council.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Patrick reported on the following:

- The Trust Council meeting is scheduled for June 8 through 10 and the agenda is expected by approximately May 27; and
- With respect to circulated comments from meetings in March and concerns expressed regarding motions, she confirmed that there was no shift in priorities and that the Council has a responsibility for people as well as statutory and legal obligations to the environment.

5. TOWN HALL AND QUESTIONS

None

6. COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

None

7. PUBLIC HEARING

None

8. MINUTES

8.1 Local Trust Committee Minutes Dated February 18, 2021 (for Information)

By general consent, the Local Trust Committee meeting minutes of February 18, 2021 were adopted.

8.2 Section 26 Resolutions-without-meeting Report Dated May 2021

None

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

9.1 Follow-up Action List Dated May 2021

No discussion.

10. DELEGATIONS

10.1 Capital Regional District - Southern Gulf Islands Transportation Integration Plan (Project Background and FAQ document attached for information)

Justine Starke, CRD, presented on the Transportation Service Establishment Study being conducted as part of the Transportation Integration Plan. She provided the following information:

- The project is being conducted with contracted support from Watt Consulting Group;

- A multimodal interconnected transportation network is being investigated to serve the Southern Gulf Islands as a region, including links to Salt Spring Island and possibly Swartz Bay or Sidney;
- The project is an outcome of the regional Community Economic Sustainability Commission on which Trustee Brent represents Saturna;
- CRD was tasked to create a transportation commission to cost and define three service models and what the role of CRD would be;
- The work is being undertaken with advice from local community groups with three advisory groups (one per transportation mode);
- Advice is sought from trail societies and Parks commissions, community bus operators and public transit as well as water taxis and other nautical operators;
- Local knowledge and previous studies provide background information with a goal of proposing a service model;
- The process was described as beginning with stakeholder and advisory group engagement; moving to public engagement in the fall; and Watt's Consulting contract to be completed at the end of December 2021; and
- The service will be proposed in 2022 and voter assent to establish a service will occur through a referendum in the October 2022 general elections.

The following discussion occurred:

Trustee Middleton reported that a past transportation service partnership meeting held in Sidney proposed redevelopment of the Sidney waterfront for Gulf Islands foot ferry traffic, and questioned if an update would be pursued with Sidney.

Justine Starke responded that:

- The Water Transportation Advisory Group thought there was no need to integrate Sidney as, operationally, it would be best to engage Navy Channel;
- BC Ferries does not always meet needs of Southern Gulf Islanders whose economy is constrained with housing challenges and lack of labour pool;
- She is interested to hear what the broader community thinks about connection to Sidney; and
- She stated that the school district's water taxi has been identified as a possible partner and cross governmental cooperation could be pursued to build flexibility into their contract.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

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

12. APPLICATIONS AND REFERRALS

2.1 SA-DP-2021.1 (Fjordbotten) – Staff Report (attached)

Planner Smith provided a description of stairs built in DPA 2 Bluffs where no development permit exists.

SA-2021-016

It was Moved and Seconded,

that the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee approve issuance of Development Permit SA-DP-2021.1 (Fjordbotten).

CARRIED

The following discussion occurred:

- Planner Smith commented on the remediation of the bluff edge, effects of past construction on the natural vegetation and the restoration recommendation as reported;
- Trustee Middleton stated that the consultant gave specific recommendations for restoration; and
- Planner Smith commented that removal of the structure may cause more damage.

13. LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE PROJECTS – N/A

14. REPORTS

14.1 Work Program Reports (attached)

14.1.1 Top Priorities Report Dated May 2021

SA-2021-017

It was Moved and Seconded,

that the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee move the Groundwater Sustainability Project off the Top Priorities Report, to be replaced by Technical Review of Land Use Bylaws and the Official Community Plan, and direct staff to return with a project charter at the next meeting.

CARRIED

4.1.2 Projects List Report Dated May 2021

SA-2021-018

It was Moved and Seconded,

that the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee place item 2, removed from Top Priorities Report into the Projects Report List, replacing items 2 and 3.

CARRIED

14.2 Applications Report Dated May 2021 (attached)

Report received for information and Planner Smith reported that:

- Update received from Mr. Ron Hall – both rezoning applications continue to be worked on by applicant.
- Mr. Peretz’s subdivision referral application will be closed out administratively.

14.3 Trustee and Local Expense Report Dated February 2021 (attached)

Received for information.

14.4 Adopted Policies and Standing Resolutions (attached)

Received for information.

14.5 Local Trust Committee Webpage

Not addressed.

14.6 Islands Trust Conservancy Report Dated January 2021

Received for information.

15. NEW BUSINESS

15.1 Business Licenses – Memo (attached)

Chair Patrick reported that a meeting was held on May 6 attended by one trustee from each island to discuss management options as a region for short-term vacation rentals (STVRs).

- Recommendation was to ask CRD to look at business licences as a tool.
- Trustee Brent confirmed CRD support and commented that work efforts at CRD will be necessary as will involvement with the province.
- Saturna Island is pushing this issue.

15.2 Draft Annual Report Wording - for approval (attached)

SA-2021-019

It was Moved and Seconded,

that the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee approve the format and outline of contents for the 2020/21 Annual Report as amended.

CARRIED

Add to the end of paragraph two a reference to the southern killer whale recovery measures as worded in the last annual report.

15.3 Education of New Residents.

Discussed a suggestion to provide an information package to new residents to promote awareness of the role of Islands Trust and the islands' ecosystems and groundwater, in particular:

- Currently there is a newcomer package provided by real estate agents with a 40-page booklet titled "A Place in the Islands" and a brochure specific to the scarcity of groundwater and the conservation efforts requested. These are also provided to B&Bs and legal STVRs;
- Suggested was Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance brochure titled "Know Your Well" which is available on their website; and
- It was commented that real estate agents point to trustees who do help educate if prospective buyers have questions.

16. UPCOMING MEETINGS

16.1 Next Regular Meeting Scheduled for July 22, 2021 - Location: TBD

17. TOWN HALL

None

18. CLOSED MEETING

None

19. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Laura Patrick, Chair

Certified Correct:

Lauren Edwards, Recorder