



Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Minutes of Special Meeting

Date: Monday, June 17, 2024

Location: Meaden Hall
120 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island

Members Present: Timothy Peterson, Chair
Laura Patrick, Local Trustee
Jamie Harris, Local Trustee

Staff Present: Stefan Cermak, Director of Planning Services
Chris Hutton, Regional Planning Manager
Rob Pingle, Legislative Clerk
Lisa Millard, Recorder (Zoom)

Others Present: Earl Rook, Capital Regional District Salt Spring Island
Local Community Commission Chair
Gayle Baker, Capital Regional District Salt Spring Island
Local Community Commissioner
Ben Corno, Capital Regional District Salt Spring Island
Local Community Commissioner
Brian Webster, Capital Regional District Salt Spring Island
Local Community Commissioner
Gary Holman, Capital Regional District Salt Spring Island
Electoral Area Director
Paul Brent, Capital Regional District Southern Gulf Islands
Electoral Area Director
Stephen Henderson, Capital Regional District Senior Manager Southern
Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Local Community Commission
Justine Starke, Capital Regional District Service Delivery Manager
Southern Gulf Islands (Zoom)

There were 2 members of the public in attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting is held in the territory of Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent, the agenda was adopted as presented.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Peterson introduced Islands Trust Trustees and Staff and welcomed Earl Rook, Capital Regional District Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission Chair who introduced the Capital Regional District attendees.

4. PROTOCOL AGREEMENTS

Chair Peterson made the following comments about the Protocol Agreement;

- It was implemented to guide relationships between the parties and allows for the scheduling of regular meetings of the Regional Directors, Local Trust Committees, and Staff to review the agreement and letters of understanding;
- It came into existence before the Local Community Commission was established;
- The agreements in place include the Islands Trust Council / Capital Regional District (CRD) Protocol Bylaw, an agreement regarding the provision of parkland between the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) and the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission which is now the Local Community Commission, and a letter of understanding regarding the withholding of building permits; and
- The focus of this meeting is the Protocol Agreement between the Islands Trust and the CRD.

Earl Rook pointed out the following issues:

- The parties to the agreement are six LTCs and the CRD Board;
- It does not acknowledge the existence of the Local Community Commission (LCC) which has administrative authority over eleven services and advisory authority over another three;
- There are six LTC's listed as parties to the Agreement and the LCC is only relevant to Salt Spring Island;
- The LCC does not have the same status of the Advisory Commissions that it replaced;
- The document needs to be updated to reflect these changes; and
- There is concern about renewing an agreement that does not recognize the existence of an agency that has an administrative authority over the locally delivered island wide services that the CRD provides.

In response to the concerns of the LCC the following was noted:

- There may be a way to recognize the existence of the LCC without necessarily creating separate agreements for the Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island; and
- There is a Protocol Agreement between Salt Spring Island and the Parks and Recreation Commission, which is focussed on parkland, and there is a possibility it could be rewritten to be between the Salt Spring Island LTC and the LCC.

Discussion ensued about the five principals of the Protocol Agreement and the following comments were made:

- Both parties need to continue to respect the jurisdiction and areas of authority of the other party and one does not take precedence over the other;
- The parties are limited to some extent by decisions the other has made; and
- The principle of a commitment to promoting a spirit of partnership remains valid.

Discussion ensued regarding the co-operation section of the Protocol Agreement and the following comments were noted:

- It is unclear what servicing arrangements the parties are to agree to jointly coordinate;

- The parties have ongoing cooperation regarding bylaw enforcement and parks planning and have worked together on renewing the climate action plan, water use, and affordable housing;
- Renewing the agreement might limit the areas in which the parties can cooperate due to the language contained within;
- The parties can agree to discuss any topic and the existing categories are broad; and
- The parties can revisit the Protocol Agreement as required and list important topics.

Discussion ensued regarding the Conditions section of the Protocol Agreement and the following comments were noted:

- The language needs to be updated to reflect the existence of the LCC;
- If more than minor edits are required to recognize the LCC then the work might have to be directed to Staff;
- Staff indicated that updating the agreement would be a similar to the development of a bylaw and there would be a requirement for ministerial approval;
- Letters of agreement can not be executed in the absence of a protocol agreement;
- Capital Regional District staff offered to work together with Islands Trust staff to review Protocol Agreement language

5. NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION ON LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

- It is important for an LTC to determine if a referral is appropriate to send to the CRD as the CRD does not want to receive referrals for all applications;
- When bylaw changes are being contemplated reporting should be provided to the other parties;
- There is a need for more formal discussion between the LTC and the LCC regarding mutual issues such as watershed protection, harbour management, and Ganges revitalization as these issues overlap with some areas of authority of the LCC;
- When one party is advocating to a higher level of government in a way that would have a direct impact on the other parties, or about a topic of shared interest, then the other parties should be informed.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- The principles listed around communications are still relevant;
- The parties need to schedule regular quarterly meetings;
- There is a need for a letter of agreement between the LTC and LCC to address how they can work together.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING, SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS, ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, AND REGIONAL GROWTH

a) Identify and prioritize issues

All parties identified and prioritized housing as the top economic sustainability issue.

Other issues and areas of collaboration that were identified included the following:

- Short term vacation rentals;
- The Active Transportation plan;
- The Ganges revitalization plan;
- Parks and trails;
- Interagency discussions on the Salish Trail;

- Wastewater treatment;
- Emergency Planning;
- Watershed protection;
- Viability and support of agriculture;
- Alignment of agriculture bylaws;
- Bylaw enforcement collaboration;
- Ensure overlapping bylaws are not in conflict;
- Climate change; and
- Reconciliation;

5. NEXT STEPS DISCUSSION REGARDING JOINT PUBLIC MEETING AND OR REGULAR MEETINGS

- The LCC would like to host the next meeting in September 2024;
- The parties agree to meet quarterly;
- The LTC and LCC agree to meet about sub-regional issues that are relevant to either party;
- Chair Peterson and Chair Rook agree to discuss draft changes to the Protocol Agreement.

6. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Timothy Peterson, Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Lisa Millard, Recorder