



Thetis Island Local Trust Committee Regular Meeting Addendum

Date: April 18, 2017
Time: 9:30 am
Location: Thetis Island Community Centre (Forbes Hall)
North Cove Road, Thetis Island, BC

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| 12. | REPORTS | 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM |
| 12.10 | <i>Trust Fund Board Report dated April, 2017</i> | 2 - 3 |



Trust Fund Board Report to Local Trust Committees and Bowen Island Municipality April 2017



100 Protected Places

The protection of Moore Hill on Thetis Island marks a milestone of 100 protected places for the Islands Trust Fund. We hope you take a moment to reflect on your part in this achievement, as every single protected place is truly a result of collaboration, cooperation and partnership.

Property Management Strategy approved

The Trust Fund Board has approved a Property Management Strategy which will guide the management of Islands Trust Fund nature reserves and covenants. The strategy provides a framework for informed decision-making to ensure that the ecological integrity of protected areas is maintained or enhanced while making the most effective and efficient use of resources. There will soon be a page on our website providing information on this strategy.

Regional Conservation Plan consultation

Look out for the trustee survey on the Regional Conservation Plan coming your way in early May. Input from trustees will be really valuable and will help make our session at the Trust Council meeting in June more productive. In the fall, Islands Trust Fund staff will attend local trust committee meetings to discuss conservation planning for each local trust area with you. ITF is also hosting workshops for our conservation partners and First Nations in Nanaimo on May 1st and in Sidney on May 4th.

Financial Planning Committee appointment: Robin Williams

The Trust Fund Board has appointed member Robin Williams to serve as our representative on the Financial Planning Committee. We are grateful for Robin's interest.

Property Monitoring

Visits to monitor Islands Trust Fund properties and covenants will be taking place from April to July. Our monitoring is carried out by a contractor who has worked with the Islands Trust Fund for many years.

Summary of Current Island-by-Island Activities

Bowen

Bowen Island Conservancy has restored an area of the David Otter Nature Reserve, planting and caging cedar trees. The group has also been working with consultants to determine the site and design of a proposed viewing platform at Fairy Fen Nature Reserve.

Gabriola

A \$10,000 grant from TD Friends of the Environment has been received towards the cost of a wooden boardwalk around the iconic large western redcedar at the Elder Cedar Nature Reserve. The raised boardwalk will allow people to get close to the majestic giant, but lessen the impact on the root zone of the tree.

Galiano

Following a presentation by the Chair of the Crystal Mountain Society Rezoning Committee with respect

to the possibility of the Society donating land to the Trust Fund Board as a nature reserve, TFB reconfirmed its agreement to hold a covenant on approximately 18 hectares of the lands owned by Crystal Mountain Society and indicated a willingness to consider a Conservation Proposal with respect to transferring of some or all of the land to the Board.

A successful restoration project was carried out at the Trincomali Nature Sanctuary involving new planting and weeding of last year's planting. Thanks to the volunteers involved!

Gambier

Restoration work at the Long Bay Wetlands Nature Reserve was successfully carried out involving volunteers from Gambier Island Conservancy and Camp Suzuki.

Keats

Islands Trust Fund has indicated support for provisions in proposed Bylaws 143 and 144 that pertain to dedicating an area as a nature reserve. If the bylaws are approved, ITF will continue to work with the owners to secure the transfer of land.

Lasqueti

TFB has approved a revised management plan for the Kwel Nature Reserve. The plan will be posted to our website soon.

Mayne

TFB has approved an Opportunity Fund grant of \$5,000 towards the costs of an ecological assessment and legal fees in conjunction with Mayne Island Conservancy Society's project to acquire and conserve a property at St John Point.

North Pender

An arborist limbed a danger tree that fell over the trail at Medicine Beach Nature Sanctuary.

Salt Spring

A representative of Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club presented a proposal to Trust Fund Board members requesting the Islands Trust Fund consider releasing or amending the covenant on Lot 31, Salt Spring Island, to allow BC Parks to acquire the land as an expansion of Mount Erskine Provincial Park. Board members identified a number of issues that would have to be addressed once a formal proposal is received, including the board's over-riding responsibility to maintain ecological protection, limited staff, time and financial resources and possible legal issues.

A conservation covenant, co-held with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, has been registered on Isabella Point. The covenant protects 2.15 hectares of forest, woodland and rocky bluffs along the shoreline.

Thetis

A covenant held by the Cowichan Community Land Trust Society is now registered on the property recently acquired on Moore Hill. Management planning will begin in the next few months.

The campaign to protect Fairyslipper Forest is in its last few months, and the push is on to raise the funds required.

Please feel free to contact members of the Trust Fund Board or Islands Trust Fund staff for more details.

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