



# Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Minutes of a Special Meeting

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**Date:** Saturday, January 30, 2016  
**Location:** Lions Club, Hart Bradley Memorial Hall  
103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island, BC

**Members Present:** Peter Luckham, Chair  
Peter Grove, Local Trustee  
George Grams, Local Trustee

**Staff Present:** Stefan Cermak, Regional Planning Manager (RPM)  
Beverly Suderman, Contract Planner, Island Planning Services  
Chris Hall, Contract Planner, Island Planning Services  
Nancy Krieg, Landscape Architect  
Jason Youmans, Planner 2  
Seth Wright, Acting Planner 2  
Shelley Miller, Planner 1  
Kristine Mayes, Planning Team Assistant/Recorder

**Media and Others Present:** Dale Dow, Table Host  
Maddy Koch, Table Host  
Mike Kelly, Table Host  
Robert Steinbach, Table Host  
Wayne McIntyre, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director  
Gulf Islands Driftwood Reporter  
Approximately 41 members of the public

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Luckham called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. He introduced himself, the Trustees and staff and acknowledged that the Local Trust Committee is meeting in the traditional territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent the agenda was adopted.

## 3. BUSINESS ITEMS

### 3.1 Ganges Boardwalk

#### 3.1.1 Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Planner Beverly Suderman, Island Planning Services, welcomed attendees and introduced herself.

She provided a summary of the history of the boardwalk project and noted the objective of the meeting was to use the gathered information from the visioning process for a design concept.

### **3.1.2 What is a Boardwalk - What is Involved in Designing a Boardwalk**

Nancy Krieg, Landscape Architect, Whitepine Consulting, shared several concepts which could aid in the design of a boardwalk such as including key stakeholders, stories, nature and icons of Salt Spring Island. She noted anchors on either end of the boardwalk would draw people and that an experience with a story, a message or a vision would make it a destination by utilizing land and water based features as well as views. Nancy Krieg noted the importance of comfort, maintenance, user safety, security and financial implications. She also expressed that the boardwalk project could be a catalyst for other improvement projects on Salt Spring Island.

### **3.1.3 Creativity Generations: Initial Thoughts in the Community**

Nancy Krieg, Landscape Architect, Whitepine Consulting, spoke to community feedback solicited from several stakeholder groups which included seven schools on Salt Spring Island who indicated they would provide feedback at a later date; the Salt Spring Island Seniors Services who noted the importance of accessibility, picnic and dog walking areas; and the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island (HASSI) who noted the importance of an additional dingy dock, space for kayak launching and securing, a berth for an inter-island ferry and possible dockside fish sales.

She also presented a written submission from the Salt Spring Arts Council entitled "The Arts on the Boardwalk".

Matt Steffich spoke on behalf of the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce and noted a completed boardwalk would benefit locals, tourists and businesses.

There was discussion and the following comments were highlighted:

- there was question regarding continuity. It was noted for the purpose of this project, the proposed span focuses on the section between Pecks Cove Park to downtown Ganges;
- it was noted the existing boardwalk structure is in good condition except for the topmost boards;
- there was question whether a bridge or trestle structure could be a viable way to span sections where gaining foreshore access might be difficult. It was noted the waterfront is complex and multi-jurisdictional with Federal, Provincial, Islands Trust and First Nations interests;
- It was noted that a Capital Regional District (CRD) joint advisory committee should be established by the end of March 2016 with a targeted completion of deliverables in Spring 2017. Work would include a design brief, feasibility study, cultural impact analysis and financing options;

- there was question whether potential issues could be addressed earlier in the process. It was noted regulatory agencies would not respond until they know what specifics of a project and that unsuitable areas for a boardwalk would be determined earlier in the process. It was also noted there is a support to move boardwalk away from the shoreline to protect the riparian vegetation along the cliff as well as significant archeology;
- there was question why Centennial Park is not included in the scope of the project;
- there was question whether the boardwalk would be an ideal Islands Pathways project to utilize their momentum and public support. It was noted that project planning is being contained but that potential options are not discouraged;
- there was question whether it was possible to purchase the property located on the waterfront on the corner of Lower Ganges Road and Upper Ganges Road to extend the boardwalk;
- there was question whether the boardwalk will connect to Rotary Park and whether interpretive signs would be welcome. It was noted the boardwalk project is a planned extension to Pecks Cove;

### 3.1.4 World Café Summary

*Question 1: How will a boardwalk benefit the community? The economy? The environment? A. What are its purposes? B. Why should it be completed?*

- Shelley Miller shared brainstorming from her table which spoke to community perspective of a boardwalk which would foremost be a place for locals and visitors to walk which is lit, safe, near facilities and adds vibrancy while connecting users to downtown Ganges. In regards to the question of economy, a boardwalk would increase tourism, connect to the market, and would provide entry into Ganges for boaters. It would also make for a good impression of Ganges and be an off season attraction. It could be a space for artists, food and advertisement. Environmentally, the boardwalk would provide an opportunity to clean up the shoreline, decrease car use, increase walkability and increase awareness of the natural environment.
- Robert Steinbach shared brainstorming from his table which spoke to the concept of what a boardwalk or seawalk looks and feels like and noted that it should instead be referred to as a harbourwalk. Finishing it would foster a sense of pride in the community and might be a catalyst for other projects. In respect to the question of economy, participants noted a harbourwalk would offer an enhanced experience for boaters and that it could be marketed as an experience as well as an opportunity to provide a learning space. Regarding the environment, participants noted there would be a big impact if it was located offshore, users could enjoy a different perspective of the harbour. It would also provide an opportunity to clean up the shoreline.
- Mike Kelly shared brainstorming from his table which spoke to connectivity which leads to increased interaction. Participants noted there is an opportunity for sustained connectivity over time as the boardwalk grows, becomes better defined and is used by more people. It would be an ideal space to get people - both visitors and locals - out of their cars to experience and interact with the boardwalk.

*Question 2: What kinds of things might provide the “wow” factor for a boardwalk in the Ganges Harbour? A. what makes Salt Spring Island unique? B. How can this uniqueness be reflected in the boardwalk?*

- Jason Youmans shared brainstorming from his table which spoke to the wow factor which already exists – the harbour itself as well as its beautiful sunrises. Participants noted the boardwalk does not need significant design elements but recommended cleaning up the shoreline, removing derelict vessels and suggested the harbour itself is the anchor. There was also support for public art at both ends of the boardwalk, fragrant flowers and a climbing wall. Other discussion proposed that the project be scalable but still allow additions to the boardwalk if and when funds become available.
- Chris Hall shared brainstorming from his table which spoke to the boardwalk as a wow factor. It was noted that the boardwalk could be part of an experience by embracing community spirit and connecting to nearby trail systems. It was noted a broad story would be preferable to ensure the experience is not overly programed. Participants also noted the boardwalk should link other parts of the harbour and First Nations culture should be showcased.

*Question 3: What do you (personally) want to do or experience on the Ganges Harbour boardwalk that you can't do on other shoreline trails on Salt Spring? How about your children or parents?*

- Stefan Cermak shared brainstorming from his table which spoke to a story where grandparents are travelling from Vancouver by sailboat to drop off their grandchild to its parents. Participants noted they could experience the Ganges harbour through public art, entertainment and viewing sea life.
- Seth Wright shared brainstorming from his table which spoke to the multidimensionality of the human spirit and experience with an emphasis on cultural education to represent local First Nations. Participants noted that there was value in the experience of being quiet and not distracting from the natural beauty of the harbour, that the boardwalk should flow organically and that the shoreline should be cleaned up.
- Maddy Koch shared brainstorming from her table which spoke to what a boardwalk offers versus other trails on Salt Spring Island. Participants noted the Ganges boardwalk would be adjacent to a commercial area which is ideal for proximity to local vendors as well as socializing, near to ocean and beach access, and offers spectacular views. Specific elements such as permanent binoculars and public artwork were recommended. It was also suggested that the boardwalk transition to a more relaxed space as it moves away from downtown Ganges toward Peck's Cove Park.

Three other questions were discussed by participants but not presented:

*Question 4: Section 1 (Peck's Cove): How could the boardwalk connect people to the water and the land in the Peck's Cove area?*

*Question 5: Section 2 (Natural area/undeveloped shoreline): How could the boardwalk connect people to the water and the land in the undeveloped area of the shoreline?*

*Question 6: Section 3 (Developed/developable shoreline area): How could the boardwalk connect people to the water and the land in the area close to downtown Ganges?*

Chair Luckham and Trustee Grams left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Trustee Grams returned to the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

**By general consent** the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

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Peter Luckham, Chair

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Kristine Mayes, Recorder