



Thetis Island Local Trust Committee Minutes of Special Meeting

- Date:** May 9, 2016
Location: Thetis Island Community Centre (Forbes Hall)
North Cove Road, Thetis Island, BC
- Members Present** Susan Morrison, Chair
Peter Luckham, Local Trustee
Ken Hunter, Local Trustee
- Staff Present** Marnie Eggen, Planner 2
Sonja Zupanec, Island Planner
Lisa Millard, Recorder
- Others Present** There were approximately thirty one (31) members of the public in attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Morrison called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. She acknowledged that the meeting was being held in the traditional territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS

By general consent the agenda was approved as presented.

3. COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

TH-RZ-2015.1 (Penelakut Seafoods Ltd.)

3.1 Presentation by Marnie Eggen, Planner 2

Planner Eggen explained that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the bylaw amendment process, an overview of the proposed bylaw amendments, and to ensure that residents and property owners had an opportunity to ask questions and seek clarity prior to the Public Hearing.

Planner Eggen conducted a powerpoint presentation which summarized the following:

- The applicant, Penelakut Seafoods Ltd., held a public meeting approximately one year ago to listen to, and address, concerns regarding public access for recreational purposes along the beach of the area known locally as the “Cut”.
- The concerns raised were addressed by Penelakut Seafoods Ltd. and the boundaries of the subject area of the application were moved 10 metres seaward prior to the submission of the application for rezoning.
- In the fall of 2015 the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee received a Rezoning Application from Penelakut Seafoods. Later in the fall, the Thetis Local Trust Committee gave first reading to proposed bylaw amendments.
- A map showing the subject area affected by the proposed bylaw amendments was presented and an explanation of said amendments was provided.
- Current Official Community Plan policies and Land Use Bylaw regulations that are applicable to “bottom culture mariculture” were explained and the existing Land Use Bylaw definition provided.
- A comparison of Zone Water 4 to Zone Water 5 zonings was presented and similarities and differences were highlighted.

Planner Eggen concluded the presentation portion of the meeting and invited questions from the public.

3.2 Questions & Answers Session

- Several questions were put forward by members of the public regarding the definition, and potential use of predator netting, and included if netting would be allowed, if it could be allowed in the future, and if it was possible to ensure it could not be allowed at any time in the future. Planner Eggen reviewed the definition of “bottom culture mariculture,” clarified that netting was currently not permitted, and indicated that if Penelakut Seafoods Ltd. (the Applicant) wanted to apply to amend their tenure to allow predator netting they would be required to apply to amend their tenure. She also expressed that staff have requested of the provincial governing body to refer any possible request for an amendment back to the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee for consideration.
- It was noted that the definition of “bottom culture mariculture,” as written in the current Land Use Bylaw policies and regulations, referred to marine mammals. Planner Eggen made note of the discrepancy and indicated that the definition could be reworded appropriately.
- Planner Eggen was asked to clarify if the previous request to shift the boundary of the subject area further east was met, and she responded that the Applicant had adjusted the boundaries in the rezoning application by 10 metres seaward.

- An inquiry was made regarding the length of tenure and Planner Eggen clarified that the tenure period is for seven (7) years and that it could be renewed by the province in the future and that approval was outside of the jurisdiction of the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee.
- Planner Eggen was asked if there had been any considerations made for future dredging within the subject area which might be necessary to maintain navigability within the channel. She responded that neither dredging nor navigational access was within the jurisdiction of the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee.
- Clarification was requested in regard to relevant marine navigation acts and regulations regarding navigable channels and the potential impediment of mariculture to navigation. Planner Eggen explained that applications received for mariculture operations are reviewed by the Provincial Government in conjunction with Transport Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and that the current tenure made allowances for public access within the subject area.
- Concerns were raised about the use of long lines within the proposed mariculture area and Planner Eggen explained that the application was specifically for the rearing and cultivation of oysters and clams and suspended infrastructure was not part of the application request.
- It was stated that shell fish harvesting is currently not allowed in the region due to contamination, therefore why would the cultivation of shellfish be allowed? Planner Eggen indicated that the Provincial Government allowed the application to proceed because the shellfish will be moved to a different site after harvesting and cleaned at that site in order to rid them of toxins.

4. RECESS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

By general consent the meeting was recessed at 5:32 pm to conduct a Public Hearing on Bylaw No. 96 and Bylaw No. 97.

5. RECALL TO ORDER

By general consent the meeting was recalled to order at 6:25 pm.

6. LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE PROJECTS

6.1 TH-RZ-2015.1 (Penelakut Seafoods Ltd.)

6.1.1 Bylaw No. 96

That the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 96 cited as "Thetis Island Official Community Plan, 2011, Amendment No. 1, 2015", be read a second time.

By general consent this item was deferred until the next scheduled meeting of the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee.

6.1.2 Bylaw No. 97

That the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 97 cited as "Thetis Island Land Use Bylaw, 2011, Amendment 1, 2015", be read a second time.

By general consent this item was deferred until the next scheduled meeting of the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 9:30 am at the Thetis Island Community Centre (Forbes Hall), North Cove Road, Thetis Island, BC.

8. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Susan Morrison, Chair

Certified Correct:

Lisa Millard, Recorder