



Saturna Island Local Trust Committee Minutes of Regular Meeting

Date: May 21, 2016
Location: Saturna Island Community Hall
105 East Point Road, Saturna Island, BC

Members Present: Paul Brent, Local Trustee
Lee Middleton, Local Trustee

Staff Present: Pat Todd, Recorder

Public: There were eight (8) members of the public present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Brent called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. He acknowledged that the meeting was being held in traditional territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent the agenda was approved as presented.

3. COMMUNITY ROUND TABLE

Pat Carney informed those present that while speaking with a CRD person she was informed that Saturna Island lacked an evacuation plan. The question was put forward as to what was the order of notice/procedure in the case of an island emergency.

Dawn Wood (Co-ordinator Emergency Services) stated that work was ongoing to ensure emergency procedures were current. There is a practice this week regarding evacuation in case of forest fire. The procedure is to call 911; then the fire chief is notified; and call out for necessary assistance. There are 16 telephone trees and there is a back up plan should phones be out. RCMP is in charge of evacuations. Ferries can be called into service to assist with island evacuation. It is important for individuals to know what is available within their neighbourhood. e.g. docks, boats. The CRD is attempting to organize a mass public notification system, which would be done through voluntary registration of contact information however, Privacy Act and Freedom of Information is an issue.

Mairead Boland questioned if information is available on a web site. There is an Emergency website however she is unsure what Saturna information is on site.

Trustee Brent spoke in support of the existing plan, radio system and communication systems.

Janet Land stated that in light of the situation in Fort McMurray it is critical to keep vigilant.

Pat Carney questioned the CRD being unaware of plan; what agencies are involved and how are they co-ordinated.

Dawn Wood stated that there is a Protective Services Commission (CRD), which is responsible for Emergency Preparedness programming. CRD operates an emergency evacuation centre and Saturna Island Rescue is prepared to assist people with mobility issues.

Trustees will contact the CRD to clarify situation.

Trustee Middleton was recently approached regarding fire management plans and asked if there is something Islands Trust can do regarding fire hazards and education.

Those present spoke to the importance of signage and reporting of illegal campfires/incinerator burning.

It was suggested that BC Ferries announce fire bans when arriving at docks – this has been done in the past.

There was discussion as to property owner's responsibilities regarding fuel loads on property. There is information available from the fire department as to fuel clearance around homes, roof sprinkler systems, etc.

Judy Tipple spoke to the importance of clearing ground of clutter, limbing trees. At this time there is no island alarm system and it is felt this could be very efficient in notifying residents of emergencies. e.g. Claxon system.

Ron Hall (Fire Protection Society) said they are sourcing signs and have contacted the Ministry of Parks regarding posting on parkland.

There was general support for announcements on ferries and a signal system.

Trustee Middleton suggested a sign design competition.

Trustee Brent spoke to Ministry of Parks holding 50% of the island and a concern as to their "no clean-up" policy.

Trustee Middleton reported that Parks supports prescribed burning, the fire management document is huge and that there is a helicopter smoke patrol at dusk daily.

There was discussion regarding enforcement of no burning, tickets, fines, etc.

Trustee Brent will be speaking at a Parks meeting on this subject.

4. DENSITY REVIEW

4.1 Staff Report & Draft Terms of Reference for a Special Advisory Planning Commission (SAPC)

Trustee Brent reviewed the establishment of a SAPC to review the density transfer process. This committee would make recommendations to the Local Trust Committee. Three/four individuals have been identified for membership and would like 1 or 2 past Trustees to be on the committee.

Trustee Middleton spoke to the misunderstanding of density transfers as it is presented in the OCP and that it is a complex matter in part due to island density cap. In reviewing other islands systems the cap and density transfer mechanism is not very effective. It is important that the system be transparent so individuals know how to use it.

Pat Carney spoke to the membership representing the various regions of the island.

Dawn Wood recommended there be 9 members so as to avoid a tie when voting on motions.

There will be notices posted to recruit candidates with the closure for application to be June 16, 2016 (possibly). There will be efforts made to identify commission members by next business meeting on the 17th of June. The SAPC would be charged with making recommendations to the LTC, which would then be put forward to the community and Islands Trust for resolution.

There was discussion as to the options for the commission to consider, one being status quo. If there is to be a density transfer system it should be understandable.

The current density cap is 800 and the Planner's review indicates density as being 720. However, it must keep in mind that 50% of island land is designated as National Park. It was suggested that cap be reduced.

Pat Carney spoke to a number of points under Terms of Reference:

- #3 – change to 9 members
- #6 – good
- #7 – need to address “20 minutes of open discussion...” as this is not enough and there is no other reference to public consultation. Felt there is insufficient opportunity for public input. Alternate wording could be “at discretion of the Chair”
- #17 – definition of elector: on voting registry for IT
- #23 – definition of resident: need to clarify – primary residence.

Trustee Middleton supported the importance of public consultation. The SAPC would be a working group; reviewing research and the expectation is that there would be an interim report part way through tenure with a mechanism for public input.

Trustee Brent spoke to consultation after receipt of the recommendations.

5. UPCOMING MEETINGS

5.1 Next Regular Meeting Scheduled for June 17, 2016, at 12:30 pm, at the Recreation & Cultural Centre, Saturna Island

6. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Paul Brent, Acting Chair

Certified Correct:

Pat Todd, Recorder