



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

**Date:** Thursday, November 5, 2020

**Location:** Electronic Meeting  
200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria

**Members Present:** Peter Luckham, Chair  
Laura Patrick, Local Trustee  
Peter Grove, Local Trustee

**Staff Present:** Jason Youmans, Island Planner  
Shayla Burnham, Administrative Assistant  
Kate Emmings, Acting Manager Islands Trust Conservancy  
Sarah Shugar, Recorder

**Others Present:** Approximately 23 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 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to an electronic meeting of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. Chair Luckham introduced himself, the Trustees and staff and acknowledged that the Local Trust Committee is meeting within Coast Salish Territory.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**By general consent** the agenda was approved.

### 3. BUSINESS ITEMS

#### 3.1 Local Trust Committee Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks

Chair Luckham presented opening remarks. He advised this Community Information Meeting is an opportunity for presentations and for members of the public to ask questions regarding the Protection of Coastal Douglas-Fir and Associated Ecosystems Project.

### **3.2 Planner Presentation on the Protection of Coastal Douglas-Fir and Associated Ecosystems Project**

Planner Youmans presented an overview of the Protection of Coastal Douglas-Fir and Associated Ecosystems Project. He reported a Science working group is meeting to assess whether present data and mapping is a sufficient base on which to build this project or whether more is required. The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has signed a contract with the Ecological Research Network to develop communication materials describing the link between Coastal Douglas-Fir ecosystem protection and biodiversity, freshwater sustainability, wildfire risk reduction and carbon capture and sequestration. Next steps include a community survey and a Salt Spring Island Advisory Planning Commission workshop regarding preferred approaches to Coastal Douglas-Fir ecosystem protection.

### **3.3 Guest Speakers**

#### **3.3.1 Darryn McMonkey, British Columbia Douglas-Fir Conservation Partnership**

Kate Emmings presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled “BC’s Imperiled Coastal Douglas-Fir Ecosystems” prepared by the Coastal Douglas-Fir and Associated Ecosystems Partnership.

#### **3.3.2 Jemma Green, Islands Trust Conservancy**

Kate Emmings presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Coastal Douglas-Fir Ecosystems on Salt Spring Island”.

### **3.4 Town Hall**

The town hall opened at 7:49 p.m.

A member of the public expressed appreciation for the presentations and asked if the presentation slides will be available to the public. The member of the public asked if Kate Emmings has studied forest regeneration on Salt Spring Island. Chair Luckham noted a recording of the meeting will be available on the Islands Trust website and it was noted members of the public are welcome to contact staff for a copy of the presentation slides. Kate Emmings reported mapping updates have not identified forest regeneration although it is anticipated that there are a number of younger forests that are on the cusp of being classified as more mature forests. The forest structure including decaying trees, fallen logs, and large woody debris that provide homes for species are all considered when classifying forests. She reported Island residents are working to restore young forests into a more mature phase and there are management techniques such as removal of some tree species that can accelerate the advancement of young forest plantations into an older forest class.

A member of the public expressed appreciation for the presentations and spoke to the interconnectedness of ecosystems.

A member of the public asked if Trustees could speak to what a model Development Permit Area (DPA) for Coastal Douglas-Fir ecosystem protection would look like.

Trustee Patrick reported the Regional Planning Committee is developing model guidelines for a Development Permit Area that would be based on the Coastal Douglas-Fir (CDF) contiguous mapping. Kate Emmings reported the CDF contiguous mapping was completed in March 2020 and the next steps include Local Trust Committees considering how the mapping can be used in each Trust Area. Chair Luckham requested Planner Youmans to define what a Development Permit Area (DPA) is. Planner Youmans reported a DPA is a geographic area that has been identified as having particular value to the community. Each DPA has a set of guidelines that need to be met when development is taking place within the DPA. He noted that not all types of development trigger the need for a Development Variance Permit. There would be a robust conversation regarding what types of activity would be exempt from the DPA guidelines if a DPA for CDF ecosystem protection is developed.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding Trustee Grove's opening remarks that stated 70% of Salt Spring Island could be clear cut tomorrow and noted that statement as fear mongering. The member of the public asked for clarification regarding the statement that the intention of the Coastal Douglas-Fir project is not to stop logging activity. Trustee Grove advised it is his understanding that 70% of Salt Spring Island could be logged and added that logging activity should be managed. The member of the public asked whether selective logging could be used in mature forests within the land conservancy areas on Salt Spring Island. Kate Emmings reported selective logging is not beneficial to mature forests. She reported selective logging can provide ecological advancement in 40-80 year old young forests as it encourages diversity of species. The Islands Trust Conservancy would only consider selective logging in Islands Trust Conservancy owned forests that are in a restoration process. There has been recent selective logging conducted in an Islands Trust Conservancy forest plantation on Galiano Island to diversify species and improve the health of the forest.

A member of the public asked for clarification regarding how the public will be able to participate in the Protection of Coastal Douglas-Fir and Associated Ecosystems project. Planner Youmans reported notifications will be posted on the Salt Spring Exchange and in the Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper. The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SSILTC) will discuss next steps at the next Regular Meeting scheduled on November 10, 2020. It was noted the SSILTC welcomes all voices to the discussion and the intention is to hear the broad range of concerns to inform the best benefit to the community.

Chair Luckham thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted the meeting recording will be available on the Islands Trust website. He spoke to the challenges of the electronic meeting format and encouraged members of the public to write to the

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee to provide feedback regarding the Protection of Coastal Douglas-Fir and Associated Ecosystems project.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**By general consent** the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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Peter Luckham, Chair

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Sarah Shugar, Recorder

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