



BRIEFING

To:	Trust Council	For the Meeting of:	March 9, 2021
From:	Trust Area Services	Date Prepared:	March 5, 2021
SUBJECT	Islands 2050 Virtual Open House		

PURPOSE:

To provide Trust Council with information about Islands 2050 virtual open house and the questions and comments received by the public.

BACKGROUND:

Islands Trust launched the Islands 2050: The Future of the Trust Area engagement on September 6, 2019, with the intention to gather information and insight from community members about their concerns and vision for the next 30 years in the Trust Area.

On November 18, 2020, the Executive Committee endorsed a revised Islands 2050 Project Charter which included delivery of two online virtual open houses; one associated with the Policy Directions report and another associated with First Reading.

Event Logistics:

The virtual open house was held Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021 from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. The virtual open house was attended by 108 people, 75 of whom were still in attendance at 9 p.m. The event included:

- An opportunity for the public to ask questions prior to the virtual open house through survey monkey link provided on the webpage: islandstrust.bc.ca/islands2050
- Pre-registration using the zoom webinar link on the webpage: islandstrust.bc.ca/islands2050
- An acknowledgment and welcome by Hereditary Chief Bill Williams (Squamish) at the beginning of the event
- Co-hosting by staff and trustees (Trustee Deb Morrison, Trustee Dan Rogers, Dilani Hippola, Senior Policy Advisor, Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor with support from Gillian Nicol, Program Coordinator, Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services, and Mark Van Bakel, Information Services Manager)
- A short presentation outlining the Policy Statement engagement process to date and the upcoming drafting process
- An opportunity for the public to ask questions during the virtual open house through the zoom webinar question and answer written feedback function
- The event was recorded and put on the Islands Trust website after the event

Please see attached for the questions and comments received prior or during the event.

Communication:

Staff posted to the Islands Trust website, social media, and shared with email subscribers, Trust Council members, and Islands Trust staff on Policy Statement amendments.

The virtual open house was advertised in newspapers (Bowen Island Undercurrent, Gulf Islands Driftwood, Gabriola Sounder, Coast Reporter, Hornby Tribune, and Denman-Hornby Grapevine), in monthly publications (Active Page, Saturna Scribbler, Our Isle and Times, Mayneliner, Pender Post, The Flagstone), and a feature online ad on the Salt Spring Exchange website. In addition, staff have directly e-mail non-profit and other island organizations to encourage them to advise their members of the survey opportunity.

ATTACHMENT(S): Questions and Comment Received During the March Islands 2050 Virtual Open House

FOLLOW-UP:

Staff will be e-mailing the 186 people who registered for the event to provide a link to the zoom recording and to remind them of how they can engage with the Islands 2050 project. Staff will continue to implement the Policy Statement Amendment Process.



Prepared By: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services /March 5, 2021

Reviewed By/Date: Gillian Nicol, Program Coordinator/March 5, 2021
 Dilani Hippola, Senior Policy Advisor/March 5, 2021
 Russ Hotsenpiller, CAO/March 5, 2021
 Executive Committee/March 8, 2021

Questions and Comment Received During the March Islands 2050 Virtual Open House

- Could you please tell the community in what ways the new policy statement will gut local autonomy, re bylaws and community plan review?
- At most (by the Islands Trust numbers), 40 Denman residents engaged in the crafting of this policy that over-rides our Official Community Plan. That is less than 3% of the population of Denman Island. Trust wide at most (by the Islands Trust numbers) 1,627 people participated in the Islands - 2050 process. That is less than 6.25% of the population of the Trust engaging and giving feedback. Given such low community participation, would you please acknowledge that your process is not representing the population, nor communities of the islands? Why are you removing more of our powers for local community decision-making? How are we on Denman Island to continue to represent our unique environmental and community fabric interests, when they are carried by only 2 Trustees at your table, which is missing the voices of 93.75% of the population?
- How will the work of the Trust Programs Committee effectively address a current failure in implementation of the intention of directive trust policies in each local area jurisdiction?
- Why is the March 9 Trust Council Town Hall scheduled after the Policy Statement discussion and voting on related motions earlier that day? If tonight is just for questions about the Islands 2050 process and report, how is Trust Council supporting democratic input on these new motions that could change the Policy Statement, Mandate and Strategic Priorities? Those motions only appeared publicly when the agenda was released last Friday and well after the deadline for delegation requests had passed. What use is a Town Hall that happens after the vote on important issues or a public event in advance of the vote that does not allow public opinion and discussion? Will Trust Council consider postponing voting on those motions until after the March 9 Town Hall?
- Did you collect and can you share demographic information showing the age and income of respondents of the first round of consultation? What did the Islands Trust do to make sure working class, minorities and vulnerable populations were properly consulted in the first phase? What special strategies were used to foster inclusion for populations that have been traditionally are often underrepresented in public consultation such as young people and low income households?
- How is the Islands Trust addressing social inequity, climate justice, and the worsening housing crisis across the Islands Trust region through the Islands 2050 planning process and potential Policy Statement amendment?
- How will IT prioritize our islands' human well-being and quality of life (including housing, jobs, public services, and small businesses) ALONGSIDE and WITH climate and biodiversity?
- Do all the members of the Islands Trust recognize there is a severe housing crisis affecting everyone in our community? Critical roles in health care, community services, small business, and more are not being filled right now, and things will only get worse. Will the Trust make solving this crisis - even within its limited mandate - a priority?
- Can you explain how housing TPS policies and local planning can take into consideration MMIWG?
- The Province of B.C. needs to change its forestry practices on islands and MOTI needs to practice its own ecological best practices in remote rural areas and not just new suburbs. What can Islands Trust do about this? Over-regulating and permitting private land owners will not compensate for the environmental destruction and lack of stewardship that the province itself is responsible for.
- What actions is the Island Trust doing to support agriculture on the gulf islands?

- My greatest concern relating to the discussion of Trust Policy Guidelines is the overall "protect and preserve" mission of the Trust. We know much more about the current and future ravages of climate change and are experiencing more development pressure on our islands than were occurring when this mission statement was first adopted. In our mailboxes yesterday, residents received a brochure from the Trust called "Coastal Douglas-fir Forests". This brochure encourages the community to protect forests through Environmental Permit Areas and conservation guidelines in our Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw for a variety of reasons including climate change. Our Trustees and Planner have before them a rezoning application that would require a 2 ha clear-cut in a Coastal Douglas-fir Ecosystem for an affordable and market housing development and the bylaws have past first reading with no discussion of our OCP Climate Change Mitigation Bylaws relating to land use decisions or some of the policy directions articulated in Islands 2050 or even the important considerations in this brochure for private landowners that would seem to be inconsistent with this rezoning.
- How will Policy Directions 2050 succeed require our Planners and elected officials consider the environment first in land use planning when this is not now occurring?
- How will the Policy Statement update further protect freshwater resources? What governance gaps exist now?
- What is progress on National Maritime Park?
- On beaches that have no sand lance fish eggs, could you assist with removing the logs which deny access to the public beach.
- Will Local Trust Committees be bound by OCP designations for private land donations?
- If the Trust cannot stop the clear cutting of trees on Salt Spring Island, where is the preserve and protect function of your policy?
- You have a page in the report to Policy Goals for Climate Action in the report but not for Affordable Housing policy goals. Why have you not yet created policy goals for this topic area?
- Considering the importance of affordable housing to the plan amendments and that the Housing Task Force is still being formed, do you think it would be prudent to extend the period for drafting the new bylaws until after the Housing Task Force has had the opportunity to submit some recommendations?
- What will the Islands Trust be doing to ensure the sustainability and viability of island culture and communities as well as preserve their unique and diverse character... especially now that real estate prices are making it virtually impossible for anyone of working class to afford a home? Who will serve and care for the aging population?
- Has the Trust considered building prescriptive zoning (rather than restrictive) so that there is a matrix by which new ideas, such as 'cluster zoning' for tiny homes could be evaluated for their ecological and community impacts? The current zoning allows for massive energy inefficient vacation homes to pour 2500sq+ ft concrete pads that clear cut lots. How is that preserving and protecting?
- What plans does the Trust have to create housing for local employees only, as opposed to creating hundreds of new densities for the general public in the hope that some will go to workers?

- My suggestion to engage with groups is that the Trust start building relationships with the community organizations that live, work and support the islands and ask them to help share information. Yes person to person - but the Trust doesn't build those community relationships.
- [REDACTED], Many working class families do not have any time to engage in these processes. If you receive 60 plus emails that say the same thing as the result of an awareness campaign, it still speaks volumes that many people agree with the sentiments being expressed. It is important to take this into consideration.