

Lori Foster

From: Robert Kojima
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:22 AM
To: Lori Foster
Cc: Kim Farris
Subject: FW: Letter regarding Crystal Mountain rezoning
Attachments: Crystal Mt Letter 2016 #4.docx

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Crystal mtn: looks like it could be the same as the previous one

Robert Kojima
Regional Planning Manager, Southern Team
Islands Trust
Phone: 250-405-5159
Enquiry BC Toll-free call 1-800-663-7867
or from the lower mainland 604-660-2421



From: Johanna New Moon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 8:58 PM
To: Robert Kojima; Kim Farris
Subject: Letter regarding Crystal Mountain rezoning

Hello there!

Please find attached, my letter to you regarding Crystal Mountain rezoning.

With Kind Regards,

Johanna New Moon

[REDACTED]
January 30, 2016
or Galiano address
[REDACTED]

Islands Trust
Galiano Island, BC V0N1P0

Re: Crystal Mountain zoning

Dear Friends

I have been a resident of Galiano Island, since 1970, leaving for
sometimes years, but always returning "home to where the heart is".

I presently live in Mill Bay, but am returning "home" permanently this
year.

I was not aware of the existence of Crystal Mountain until the year 2000,
when the intense grief of a close friend's tragedy brought me to a special
ceremony there.

A sunny summer's day, and a spacious wall tent was set up on a wooden
platform, holding at least 30-40 people.

The tenderest, most compassionate ceremony was given, and we all left
full of hope and love.

And yes, it changed my heart and my life.

Since then I have participated in many retreats hosted by Crystal
Mountain, ranging anywhere from 1 week to one month.

I have been a retreat manager at least 5 times, both on the land at Crystal
Mountain, camping, with an outdoor kitchen, and at Bodega Ridge Resort,
staying in chalets and attending classes in the lodge.

The most recent month long retreat I was in was January 2014, and I was
one of the first to use one of the three huts (that were built as prototypes
and are removable) there. It was very small, but well built and cosy.

There was only one other person staying on the beautifully wild 50 acres
and she was in a hut about a 5 minute walk away.

We walked to and from our classes (about a kilometer each way) twice a
day—4 km--otherwise we lived in total and separate silence...in January...

Being a little ADHD I could only sit meditating for minutes and I was
instructed how to do walking meditation.

I walked all over that magnificent, pristine, wild land—slowly, silently,
reverently...in January...

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And by week 3, I received a gift from the land...I discovered that every single organism was in relationship with every other organism.

The crows, watched the movement of the racoons. The racoons watched the movement of the smaller birds and rodents. The birds went after insects and seeds, and rodents had to move quickly, hiding, searching, scurrying towards life and away from death.

Everything moved to the rhythm of the light of the sun, the moon, and the brilliant stars.

Plants were all growing in relationship to all of this as well as each other and the wetness, rockiness, fertility of the soil.

And I discovered that I belonged...so simple but it has changed my whole life...I am part of this wonderful relationship...I BELONG!

Man is not separate from nature!!

By month's end I had encountered the largest obstructions to my inner evolution, and knew that all of my solutions were to be found in studying nature and its constant attraction to balance and then reflecting on it within.

My goal became to find this balance every day, especially by turning to nature.

I cannot say enough about the level of participation, integrity, ethics, compassion, and dedication that the owners and members of Crystal Mountain possess and practice, both individually and as a group.

It is truly an honor to be a part of such a deeply committed, caring group.

This amazing land is the most lovely gathering place to revere nature and learn about one's inner being and the infinite universes within.

My heart sings when I think of returning to my beloved island, re-uniting with friends and neighbours, and participating in such an incredibly generous and healing group as Crystal Mountain.

Most Sincerely,
Johanna New Moon