

Laurene Stefanyk

January 30, 2016

To the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee,

I am writing today to express my support for Crystal Mountain's rezoning application. I have thoroughly read the information package from Crystal Mountain and spoken to members of the rezoning committee. The information presented was enough to satisfy any concerns I may have had. It is my understanding that there is a recommendation/request from the Local Trust committee to transfer title in order to create a community benefit. I strongly believe there are a number of community benefits that exist already, and will continue to exist, after rezoning. I do not feel transfer of title is necessary nor is it the "best"/highest benefit for the island.

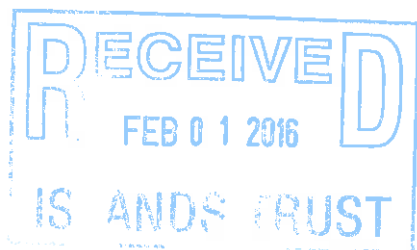
I feel Galiano is very blessed to have Crystal Mountain make its home here on the island. During the past 15 years, I have attended various dharma talks and recently participated in a 3 day meditation retreat. This was a profound experience; one which brought me deep calm and joy. What a gift! During my time as a small business owner on Galiano, I have had many retreat participants support my store. Crystal Mountain is a well recognized and mature organization, drawing support locally and from many corners of the globe. I feel the centre's retreat use for meditation is a major benefit in itself, as is their commitment to preservation of a mature forest on Lot 9. I have full confidence that the forest restoration efforts on the forest lot, guided expertly by recommendations from Keith Erickson of the Galiano Conservancy, will best be implemented by keeping title. I would appreciate continued access to this land.

Normally, I would be standing here, stating my opposition to any 'development' of a forest lot. In the past, transfer of title has been regarded as the only acceptable community benefit at the time of rezoning. Let's not compare only to what has happened in the past....This is a unique application from a unique non-profit organization with strong island roots. In a world that is increasingly busy and stressed, we on Galiano are blessed to have access to teachings on calming the mind through meditation and study. It is my sincere hope to be able to pursue this education outside of just the tenting in summer in an all season Forest Retreat Centre in a forest that will receive hands-on, sustainable managed restoration efforts in a timely, well staffed manner.

Thank-you for your consideration,

Laurene Stefanyk

Galiano Island



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