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Galiano local trust committee
% Island Trust
200 - 1627 Fort Str
Victoria BC
V8R 1H8

re. Crystal Mountain

Dear Galiano Island trust committee

As I was able to only briefly attend the trust meeting on June 16th I would like to now comment on the rezoning application for a meditation centre and especially on the perception that this would not benefit the community

One benefit is the possibility to attend a retreat without the cost of having to leave the island and to pay an individual donation towards the expenses instead of a set fee.

The health benefits of meditation are well researched and documented. The spiritual aspect of the teachings can also be meaningful.

However, it is in every islander's interest to protect forested areas from the possibility of clearcutting, to protect trees that prevent soil erosion, to clean the air and the water and keep the latter in the ground. I understand that 3/4 of the forest land held by the Crystal Mountain Society is to be

kept as forest and will become also a designated nature protection area.

I am sure that the Crystal Mountain society will be a good steward of this area as environmental concerns and care are also shown in the small footprint of planning for huts and shared dining - shower facilities rather than e.g. fully equipped cottages.

Some concerns have been expressed in regards to the rezoning of forest lands that until now have included the granting of a beach access, parkland or other specific community uses. This seems to be a fair exchange when rezoning resulted in an owners significant financial gains and stands as a valid precedent.

However in the case of the Crystal Mountain application, the aim is not financial gain, it is the provision of a service. It could become a precedent for possible other future charitable organizations and thus very unlikely to impact the Galiano community in any negative way.

— In summary: Some of the benefits in granting the rezoning are options to attend an affordable, healthful retreat and the significant impact of the 75% of protected forest on climate change.

I hope for a favourable outcome of this application
Thank you for your attention. Respectfully,
D. Rociness
Doris Rociness