

Regina Robinson



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2016 8:41 AM
To: Kim Stockdill
Subject: Fwd: Letter
Attachments: image.jpeg

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GLRZ 2014.1

Hi Kim,
this letter was sent to us but needed to be forwarded to you,
Thanks,

[Redacted]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [Redacted]
Date: Wed, Feb 24, 2016 at 9:12 PM
Subject: Fwd: Letter

[Redacted]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michael Maclean [Redacted]
Date: 14 December 2015 at 17:53
Subject: Letter

[Redacted]

Letter
From Michael Maclean to Galiano Islands Trust Committee

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to support the rezoning application on Galiano by Crystal Mountain. I fully support the proposal for a number of reasons.

The Stupa has always been open to the public as a sculptural installation that serves as a beacon of mindful contemplation. I visited this lovely spot when I first moved to Galiano in 1987. I always encourage everyone to visit it.

On a personal level my first real introduction to its members and courses of instruction was after a very deep psychological strain that taxed my ability to function in the world. This kind of experience was not something I

had experienced before and yet was quite adamant about not accepting psychotropic medication. This is not because i lack respect for the medical community, but instead was informed by my previous years of work in self reflective meditation. Consciousness is a mysterious fact of existence that I have always felt to be at the center of life's purpose, and I felt that I wished to navigate that meltdown with the perceptive and analytical skills learned in another Buddhist tradition, without prescribed chemical moderation that has proven to help many but comes with many side effects, and in fact has effectiveness precisely because these drugs dull the mind. The tradition of Vipassanna is excellent but had somehow dried up for me, and but did serve me well to survive that experience, and keeping my faculties fully sensate revealed many insights through the trauma of mental breakdown.

In the depths of this time one member of Crystal Mountain visited me, and we spoke about many things in such a manner that I soon enrolled in courses as soon as I felt I was crawling safely from the Abyss.

In the subsequent two years I reconstructed my confidence in the world, gained steady and satisfying employment in my chosen professional field of sculpture, and secured a mortgage for my first house purchase; a 5 acre lot on Galiano.

I can say without the slightest exaggeration that it was the Crystal Mountain teachers, community and environment that assisted me beyond description in going from strength to strength with clarity and good purpose. I continue to be active in practices learned and in maintaining the publicly accessible Stupa. At my property on Galiano I have been constantly pursuing my art practice ever since, and have been engaging with the wider community by fulfilling an island need for personalized monuments in our local cemetery. None of this would have come to pass without the existence of Crystal Mountain.

I hope that this proposal will finally be given the serious attention it deserves, and I hope that any objections to it are addressed in a thorough concise manner that honours the potential of people to understand the significance of sharing our unique placement in the natural world, and our local culture of mindfulness that has thrived by the force of volunteers and the quality of it's gifts, into something that can benefit many more people and help in the healthy evolution of Galiano in all it's flora and fauna including full time locals and temporary visitors.

I feel that the recent public discourses on mental illness allows me to share this personal history without shame and encourages me to hope that reading this will underscore the needs of society to be mutually supportive of mental health techniques. Meditation helps one teach oneself from the inside the profound nature of experience and compassion, and helps knit them together as we move through our lives. It is a gift to be shared.

Thank You,
Michael Maclean.

--
"nature always gets her way" Ani DiFranco.

