

COPIED TO

PLANNER

LTC

web

C.L.P. 22-2014.1

Regina Robinson

**From:** studio-be [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 1:18 PM  
**To:** Kim Stockdill; Robert Kojima; Sandy Pottle; George Harris; Laura Busheikin  
**Subject:** Letter of Support / CMS rezoning application

Dear Local Trust Committee members,

As a near neighbour to Crystal Mountain, I have had the opportunity to review the proposal with members of Crystal Mountain Society at their first information meeting at the north hall last fall, and feel assured that regulations are being met through the rezoning process.

Crystal Mountain Society has been an active, positive, educational group within the island community for nearly four decades. The Society seeks to formalize its low impact Forest Retreat use to support year round meditation instruction and quiet contemplation in the rural beauty of Galiano Island. CMS's proposal is comprehensive and their aim is for transparency in the process of rezoning. They are taking the important and necessary steps of consulting and deeply listening to concerns of immediate neighbours. Their intention within this proposal is that the natural, peaceful character of the neighbourhood remain unchanged.

CMS supports the Islands Trust mandate to protect the forest, as recommended in the OCP, through an **ecosystem based plan** for forest management and restoration. A restrictive covenant registered on the land will ensure this protection of forest values for future generations.

CMS shares neighbours' concerns about water availability for all users. A water study has recommended management tools to ensure the supply remains undiminished. The society is committed to adhering to strict guidelines for water management.

An emergency access route through their lands at their cost to prepare and maintain is a generous offer to those living north of them, and all residents along Devina Drive.

The proposal will include a contribution to support the critical need of affordable housing in the Galiano community.

Lot 9 is currently zoned Residential, and has on it wetlands, cliffs and a mature stand of Western Red Cedar. CMS wishes to preserve this lot entirely by covenant according to recommendations by a local professional biologist.

I am in full support of Crystal Mountain Society's application to rezone, and encourage the LTC to move forward with approval of the rezoning proposal.

Respectfully,  
Valerie Speidel

