

From: Colleen Doty <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 12:24 PM

To: Dan Rogers <drogers@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Tahirih Rockafella <trockafella@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Brad Smith <bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Jane Wolverton <jwolverton@islandstrust.bc.ca>

Subject: Crystal Mountain Society - Letter of Support

Dan Rogers
Tahirih Rockafella
Jane Wolverton
Brad Smith

Dear Local Trust Committee,

I support, without reservation, the CMS Rezoning application for a Spiritual Education Forest Retreat Centre.

I have followed the CMS application over its several years in the system, and I am fully satisfied that the proposal benefits the Galiano community. The land use is appropriate, reasonable, and sensitive to the ecological values of the community: a forest retreat for people to meditate, operated by a registered Canadian Charity, thus without profit motive.

With the protection of 75% of land transferred to the Islands Trust Conservancy, and a 3rd-party covenant on the remaining portion, a significant portion -- around 90% -- of the original forest will be protected.

Qualified experts and professionals have studied the well capacity and determined the source to be adequate to meet the demand without impacting neighbours. A Statutory RoW will provide an alternate safety route for north-end residents.

Galiano community members have always been welcomed to attend sessions through Crystal Mountain Society. I hope to be able to go on a retreat one day, and what a privilege to be able to do so without having to travel on BC Ferries to leave the island.

Over the years, CMS has done, within reason, everything it's been asked to do. Having attended every LTC meeting since 2014, I have witnessed what the volunteer applicants have been through and read every letter publicly posted. It is a testament to the power of meditation and spiritual community that the applicants, after all these years, are persisting with grace.

It's unfortunate a Public Hearing was not scheduled for this application before the end of this election period. CMS' rezoning proposal is about to experience its seventh Local Trust Committee.

I fully support the 2nd and 3rd readings of Bylaws 256 and 257.

Colleen Doty
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