

Peter Johnston

Islands Trustee

We finished a six hour Lasqueti Trust Committee meeting this afternoon just after 3pm. Partly it took so long because it has been almost three months since we last met, and partly it's because the OCP revision is a huge project, probably much bigger and more complex than we thought when we began.

We did not make any changes to the proposed Official Community Plan, which remains as it is in the agenda package for today's meeting. We have the comments and input from community members, the qRD, a few government agencies, and one First Nation. Each of the three trustees will be considering all the input, and Heather's suggested revisions. Each of us will submit recommendations for changes they think important to staff. These proposed changes will appear in the next agenda package, and will be discussed (and hopefully decided upon) at our next meeting, scheduled for June 21.

We made some additions to the project charter, too, which will delay the schedule for adopting the OCP, but will make it better.. Details will be in the minutes from today's meeting. The meeting was recorded, and in a few days will be available for watching and listening. It will have the advantage that you can fast forward.

If anyone does watch it, it will help others if you can record the times in the recorded meeting on the agenda, so others can go to the part they are interested in quickly. You can post the information on the Lasqueti web site, or send it to me and I will post it. Others can use it, and possibly add more information to it. If you think you could do this, please ask me to send you a slightly modified agenda that we followed. Possibly we could have these posted on the Trust web site, with the link to the recorded meeting.

The Trust's Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor, Lisa Wilcox, gave us an interesting perspective on provincially administered (crown) lands. She said (though these are my words, not hers) that the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled numerous times that these lands are held in trust by government for First Nations so that land claims and Aboriginal rights (that are guaranteed in our constitution) can be settled.

Reconciliation is a process that is ongoing, and we are engaged in it. I have been impressed by the number of Lasqueti people who have told me that they support Snaw-naw-as in taking control over the two parcels of land on the south end of Lasqueti. Because we have lived by them, and there have been no other interests made clear to us, we have come to feel that these lands are ours, or at least partly ours, and that that what we want should be considered by our provincial government. It is not so simple as that, and we'll have to get used to it.

SIPA Wilcox will be making enquiries and helping the LTC to establish relationships with First Nations that have claims and interests on and around Lasqueti. I am looking forward to establishing relationships with these Nations, too, especially between members of our community and theirs. We settlers have something like 150 years of connection with this island. Except for a very few families, our connections to this place have been relatively brief. First Nations peoples have something like 50 or 60 times as much connection, continuously until quite recently, and we can benefit from learning from them.

The quarter section of land where Safe Island Land Alliance was proposed is now owned by the proponents, who are living part-time on Lasqueti. I encourage everyone to meet with them and hear what they are planning, and let them know, respectfully, if you have questions or concerns. Their proposal is a different take on a kind of land-sharing group that is common here.

Senior Trust staff and Trust Council chair Luckham have been having discussions with FLNRORD and other government and ministry officials, renewing and revising, I understand, agreements that have not been kept current. I assume that details that can be made public will eventually be announced. Until then, we'll have to be patient.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Tim, or our planner, Heather Kauer, or the Trust northern office. Peter

TIM PETERSON

Islands Trustee

At our April 26 electronic meeting, we added a couple items to the scope of the OCP review, which were to review including a Parks designation, at the suggestion of the Island Trust Conservancy, and to include more robust

language to support First Nations Reconciliation. Staff was also asked to report back on some suggested wording regarding ALC/ALR lands.

No decision was made on the inclusion of final wording on sheep, although we did receive a Delegation from Tom on the subject, and discussed some of the seemingly contradictory recommendations from the LCA OCP Steering Committee and staff reports. We will be receiving an updated Project Charter at our next meeting in June, and may proceed to Second Reading after further amendments to the Draft OCP at that time.

We also resolved to add review of Policies 18 and 20, regarding log handling/dumps to Phase 4 of the Project. Trustee Johnston proposed adding several items to our Projects list, including a Community Shoreline Mapping project, and a review of options for Scottie Bay, which were added to the list. The LTC requested our Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor to begin outreach to First Nations with interests in our Local Trust Area, in order to begin a dialog and relationship building through the Community-to-Community meeting process. An invitation from Tla'amin Hegus John Hackett to attend one of their meetings was accepted. The LTC agreed to sponsor my attendance at the AVICC conference in May.

Our next meeting is June 21. Although we would like to return to in-person meetings, it remains very unlikely for some time. I had very poor connectivity for much of the meeting, and experienced first-hand how frustrating the electronic format can be. That being said, we still encourage the public to attend when possible, and also to contact your Trustees with your questions, comments, or concerns.