

From: Islands2050
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:03 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Inclusion of my letter of June 21st. in the public correspondence package for the July 7th meeting re amendments to the Public Trust Policy
Attachments: img036.pdf

From: Joyce Thayer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Russ Hotsenpiller <rhotsenpiller@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Inclusion of my letter of June 21st. in the public correspondence package for the July 7th meeting re amendments to the Public Trust Policy

Dear Mr. Hotsenpiller: I ask that my letter of June 21st., attached, sent to the trust council members and yourself on that date be included in the package of public comments. Many thanks for your assistance. Joyce Thayer, North Pender Island

June 21, 2021

To: Islands Trust Council

North Pender Island Trustee Benjamin McConchie, bemconchie@islandstrust.bc.ca
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Thetis Island Trustee Peter Luckham, pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

From: Joyce Thayer

Re: Amended Islands Trust Policy Statement

I am a resident of North Pender Island. I have recently been made aware that at their meeting of June 15, 2021 the Trust Council approved major amendments to the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

I write the Islands Trust Council to express my serious concern with respect to the manner in which public consultation has and is intended to take place with respect to the proposed revisions to the Islands Trust Policy Statement. Major amendments to the Islands Trust Policy Statement are the most important governance decision made by Trustees. This is the first major revision of the Policy Statement since 1974. To ensure that the proposed changes are properly understood and widely accepted it is of

vital importance that adequate public consultation in accordance with the existing and proposed trust policies take place.

The current and proposed draft policy both emphasize the importance of open, transparent public consultation within each island governed by the trust to ensure effective governance:

Regional and Localized Approaches: Underpinning the Islands Trust regional governance approach is a strong acknowledgment that a degree of local autonomy supports effective governance in the Trust Area. Each island within the Trust Area has unique characteristics and has developed in its own unique way over the years. While the preeminent duty of all locally elected officials is to uphold the Islands Trust Object and regional mandate in all aspects of local planning and decision-making, they are to do so in a way that is sensitive and suitable to local circumstances, and guided by open, consultative public participation.

6.1.7 Trust Council holds that open, consultative public participation, is vital to effective decision-making in the Trust Area.

The public consultation measure currently proposed by the Trust Committee prior to first reading of the Amended Policy Statement is entirely inadequate and inconsistent with their stated policies. While electronic meetings may have been adequate for the Trust to conduct day to day business due to Covid protocols they are entirely unsuited to public consultation.

In particular meaningful public engagement cannot take place in the manner currently proposed for July 7th and thereafter. A two hour Town Hall session held by Zoom in which participants are limited to a two minute presentation and the length of presentation and number of participants can be limited by the Chair at their discretion, does not constitute open, consultative public engagement prior to first reading of the proposed Amended Islands Trust Policy.

The suggestion in the News Release of June 18, 2021 that subsequent to first reading the public will have an adequate opportunity to fully review the proposed amendments to the Islands Trust Policy and comment on proposed changes is flawed. While such a process may work for a bylaw that does not require review by other agencies; it is entirely inappropriate in this case. The time for public engagement for a policy document of this importance is prior to not after first reading. Changes to the Islands Policy Statement reflecting public feedback must be made before not after their circulation to the over 100 provincial and federal agencies, organizations, First Nations, and other governments which will eventually be asked to review the proposed changes and provide feedback.

The ensure adequate public consultation at a minimum there should be in person Town Halls on each island covered by the Trust prior to first reading of the Amended Policy Statement. Following the current government timeline, by the fall of 2021 there should be no Covid restrictions in place. Accordingly, to allow in person attendance these Town Halls should take place in the fall of 2021 after the Covid restrictions are lifted. At these town halls representatives of the Trust Council should outline the changes to the Islands Trust Policy Statement and explain their rationale for the proposed changes.

I respectfully ask you to delay first reading of the Amended Policy Statement currently scheduled for July 8th for a brief period of months to allow in person Town halls take place to ensure meaningful public engagement on the proposed changes to the Islands Policy Statement. Such a request is consistent with your own policies and procedures and will ensure that the public fully understands and has an adequate opportunity to provide feedback on the extensive and significant changes to the Policy Statement changes proposed by the Trust Council.

Yours truly;



Joyce Thayer B.A. , JD.

Cc: Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer, Islands Trust, rhotsenpiller@islandstrust.bc.ca

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