

From: Ian Rowe [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 10:23 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Fwd: letter
Attachments: April 03,2022 letter to Paul Brent, Lee Middleton.pdf

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: letter
Date: Tue, 5 Apr 2022 10:13:28 -0700
From: Ian Rowe [REDACTED]
To: Paul Brent <pbrent@mac.com>
CC: Lee Middleton <middlet@me.com>

See attached re 2050 Trust proposal



April 03, 2022

Paul Brent, Lee Middleton
Saturna Island Trustees

I write to express my concerns over issues related to the Island Trust Draft Policy Statement.

My concerns relate not entirely to the proposed policy changes but also to the lack of engagement with the general public in the creation of these important initiatives.

I am a long time resident (52 years) of Saturna and was a participant observer in the community plan development which was rooted in a democratically evolved structure reflecting the wishes of the full community of Saturna Island.

The current direction of the Trust Council to propose to impose a collection of externally developed binding rules and regulations runs counter to our rich history of community based democratic governance.

Indeed these proposed strictures will preclude the opportunity for future residents and businesses to benefit from the economic opportunities that have enabled my generation to enjoy a rewarding life on Saturna.

The focus of my economic activity here on Saturna has been offering services related to developing properties for residential use generally by newcomers. In many cases this process involves the discretionary removal of some trees to provide clearings for house sites, driveways, septic fields and other uses; and also the provision and planting of new trees to remediate the site.

I would note in passing that providing services to new arrivals is the backbone of economic activity on Saturna.

The prospect of requiring a permit to remove trees is daunting as the process would be fraught with difficult judgements related to advisability and fit with reigning policy.

As well a New Administrative Bureaucracy would be required to manage the program and adjudicate the many contests arising from disagreements. Paid consultants would be the norm and this new bureaucracy would employ a variety of experts, administrators, dispute resolvers and field representatives (enforcers)

One focus of my economic activity has been to invest significant resources in developing a state of the art bandsaw sawmill in order to process trees removed from client properties and my own as well.

This bandsaw is just one of the four or more on the island which would be negatively impacted if tree removal permitting were to become law. The prospect of constraints on tree removal is creating a perverse incentive for landowners with marketable trees to engage preemptively in early and extensive rapid harvesting of their valuable assets. Trees that otherwise might have been left to grow and only potentially been harvested off into the future would be an immediate victim of this proposed rule change. This seems an outcome that is opposite to that intended by the authors of the policy initiative.

The ISL Online survey

After recently completing the survey I was left feeling annoyed, used and misled. Important issues were buried in innocuous sounding topics. The opportunity to properly address basic concerns regarding community consultation, or economic impacts, or whether I had confidence in this trust to pursue this "amendment project" and whether it was necessary; none of the contentious material was addressed. I was left with the impression that the survey was designed to yield a positive response to the notion that the Trust should be empowered to have more "directive" control.

Desalination

As a long serving member of the Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water commission, I would like to inform the Trust that the CRD engineering staff has advised the commission that it is likely that sometime in the future the system will need to source our water from a desalination plant.

sincerely

Ian Rowe