

From: Islands2050
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 12:19 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Islands Trust: The Heart of the Matter - Graham Brazier Correspondence

From: Graham Brazier [REDACTED]
Subject: Islands Trust: The Heart of the Matter
Date: May 24, 2021 at 12:07:56 PM PDT

To: sfast@islandstrust.bc.ca, mkaile@islandstrust.bc.ca, Laura Busheikin <lbusheikin@islandstrust.bc.ca>, David Critchley <dcritchley@islandstrust.bc.ca>, scolbourne@islandstrust.bc.ca, klangereis@islandstrust.bc.ca, Dan Rogers <drogers@islandstrust.bc.ca>, trockafella@islandstrust.bc.ca, jwolverton@islandstrust.bc.ca, kstamford@islandstrust.bc.ca, aallen@islandstrust.bc.ca, gscott@islandstrust.bc.ca, pjohnston@islandstrust.bc.ca, tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca, Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>, jdodds@islandstrust.bc.ca, dmaude@islandstrust.bc.ca, bemconchie@islandstrust.bc.ca, dmorrison@islandstrust.bc.ca, lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca, pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca, pbrent@islandstrust.bc.ca, lmiddleton@islandstrust.bc.ca, cthorn@islandstrust.bc.ca, Steve Wright <stwright@islandstrust.bc.ca>, dfenton@islandstrust.bc.ca

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

May 24, 2021

To all current Islands Trust Trustees

from nine former Trustees who dedicated a combined total of 58 years service to the Islands Trust

As former Trustees we were greatly saddened to learn of the defeat of a motion made at the March meetings "that Trust Council affirm its understanding that the paramount object of the Islands Trust Act is preservation and protection of the natural environment". We ask that Trustees reflect on the historical significance of that decision as well as its implications for the future and reconsider that motion at the next meeting of Trust Council in June.

Signed:

- 1) Sheila Anderson Trustee for Galiano Island, from 2002 to 2005
- 2) Louise Bell, Trustee for Denman Island from 1996 to 2011
- 3) David Greer, South Pender Island Trustee, 2008-2011
- 4) Harlene Holm, Trustee for Denman Island from 1978 to 1984
- 5) Debbie Holmes, Trustee for Galiano Island, 2 terms: 1996 - 2002
- 6) Peter Lamb, Salt Spring Island Trustee, 2005 - 2008

- 7) Roxanna Mandryk, Trustee for Denman Island, 1992-1996
- 8) Gisele Rudischer Trustee for Gabriola Island from 1996 to 2008
- 9) Wendy Scholefield, South Pender Island Trustee, 2008-2012, 2016- 2018

Comments

1) Louise Bell: The Islands Trust is not here to promote residential land use and address social problems. Remember, it was increasing development that triggered the creation of the Trust in the first place. The Act makes it clear that the Trust is intended to protect this area for the benefit of all British Columbians, as well as for the residents of the area. Surely that means protecting the environment -- the ecological values, biodiversity, species habitat and, in particular, the forests -- so that these characteristics are sustained for years to come. It is time for Trust Council to acknowledge that its work over the past two decades has broadened to such extent that this objective is no longer recognised as the primary *raison d'etra*, much less given the attention and resources that it merits.

2) Harlene Holm: I served as local trustee during the years when the very existence of the Islands Trust was challenged and sometimes strengthened according to the winds of political change at the provincial government level.

Along with fellow trustees and Trust staff, I worked on the original text of the Trust Policy Statement. We were absolutely clear that the “the object of the Trust is to preserve and protect the Trust area and its unique amenities and environment.”

The “unique amenities” are unique qualities valued by residents of the islands, BC and elsewhere and, though these qualities include the “rural character” of the islands, human activities were and should remain seen as the greatest threat to the fragile island ecosystems.

The March 2021 Trust Council motion to add housing and transportation as amenities intended to foster inclusivity is at odds with the historical object of the Trust. According to the Cambridge Dictionary definition: Inclusivity is the quality of trying to include many different types of people and treat them all fairly and equally.”

Either protecting the environment is paramount or creating inclusive communities is paramount. The two goals are not compatible.

Protecting the environment involves setting density caps according to the carrying capacity of the environment as established by an objective application of the cautionary principle.

Inclusivity inevitably involves developing mechanisms to expand housing and infrastructure. Expansion is a given in the absence of a dictatorial sorting mechanism to remove demographics to make room for a ‘better’ mix. As a consequence of March Trust Council directive, the new Trust Policy Statement (draft) sets a path to increased density from promoting identification of areas for densification, encouraging development of undefined ‘affordable’ housing and avoiding a Trust-wide articulation of what density capping and limiting build-out should look like.

Pressure for housing, employment opportunities and the rights of private ownership will never be satisfied no matter the number of development concessions, densification and shelved environmental protection efforts.

Please avoid diluting the Trust Policy Statement and subsequent Official Community Plans and Local Trust Committee decisions by creating conflicting objects.

3) David Greer: Thirty years ago I was part of a commission set up by the Harcourt government (Commission on Resources and Environment) to create a blueprint for environmental, economic and community sustainability for the province. It's pretty clear that of three components, environment got the short end of the stick in the past three decades, though there have been some laudable environmental protection initiatives. Today it feels odd to hear "sustainability" and "old-growth protection" discussed as if they're brand new concepts—more like old concepts that have struggled for decades to get the recognition they need.

4) Peter Lamb: In my view, the proposed amendment to the object of the Islands Trust undermines its original purpose which separated the land-use planning function from the provision of community services. It also perpetuates the myth of the three-legged stool in which social and economic objectives are treated equally with the environment. Yet, without a stable and healthy natural environment, neither of the other two legs matter.

This is not to say that such objectives as affordable housing, farming and transportation are irrelevant but that they must only be considered by Trustees within the primary goal to preserve and protect "the environment and peculiar nature of the islands" (as Minister James Lorimer pronounced on introducing the Islands Trust Act in 1974). To change the legal object of the Trust to open up other criteria severely weakens the ability of the Trust to continue its important land-use planning function.

5) Roxanna Mandryk: After my term on Trust Council, I served for six years as the Electoral Area Director for the area that included Denman and Hornby islands, two of the Trust Islands, as well as part of Vancouver Island. During that time at a different level of local government, it became so much more apparent to me how important the Trust's role in preserving and protecting the natural environment is. The environment was rarely, if ever, considered in land use decisions. The Trust's mandate to preserve and protect has never been more critical to the islands as they face more and more pressures to develop. Please don't let us down!

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^