

LTC

Denman island, June 22 2018

I absolutely disagree with the way our LTC has handled the subject of cannabis.

You set the tone in the fall of 2015 and etched this into the minutes of 5 meetings. You seemed determined to see something spurious and unclear that needed to be prevented “by any means available to us” in the unfounded and imaginary complaints posed by a small select lobby group. Even now almost 3 years later I have to hear that same lingo again at an APC meeting and then read it in their minutes for June 13 2018. Chemicals in the water table, really? What are these chemicals we keep hearing about that magically appear when cannabis is grown on a small scale?

The tone has not changed. But you will take this referral and your letter from AG Ministry telling you you are allowed (not compelled, allowed) to write cannabis into an otherwise perfectly fine and credible definition of intensive agriculture, and these will be your justifying documents. We may see yet see a new referral from GPA but the one they already vetted was before you inserted cannabis into the definition.

Cannabis does not merit being in that definition.

11.1 May 1 2018

Denman Farm Plan Implementation - Staff Report

What is the source of the language being proposed for these bylaws?

o These bylaws have been drafted by staff based on input from the APC, the DGPA, Farm Plan and the LTC.

The proposed definition of “intensive agriculture” includes cannabis production, except to the extent the use is carried out solely for domestic purposes. What is the source of this additional language?

- The basis of the definition of intensive agriculture is from the Ministry of

Agriculture and the addition of cannabis production to the definition was at the request of the LTC who asked that it be added if possible to clarify that zones R1, R2, and R3 are not currently intended for intensive agriculture including intensive cannabis production.

You keep saying that but you never say why.

Your first year long attempt to craft a bylaw to limit or eliminate agriculture from R1/R2/R3 was set aside (as inappropriate at that time) Nov 15 2016 by recommendation in a staff report. Yet you never stopped fussing with it. I cannot state strongly enough how distasteful this idea is. I bought my property for it's abundant water and horticulture/home occupation bylaws. It is an intrinsic part of the value of my property and it is an appropriate use. You are very glib to cast all small lots as alike. No two are similarly developed on my street. You should be more worried about a monoculture weed and feed lawn than my blueberries.

If new industry comes to our island, i would hope it would be in the form of small discreet respectful and respected endeavours. Land use on Denman Island should be friendly to small chances at economic stability. There is no avenue for 'farm gate sales' to occur in the case of cannabis as you must be aware of the rigid framework producers have for distribution. What we really need to protect our harmony from would be the giant millionaire investor operations that are truly voracious and I believe would not fit into the fabric of our environment.

The Farm Plan deserves to stand alone and not as a presage to interfering with the property rights of the rest of the community.

T. Wenner