

August 1, 2024

Dear Galiano Local Trust Committee;

I am writing to support site-specific zoning application reference number PLRZ20240003, from Leif Palmberg. I support this application for a number of reasons.

Food Security--Until the 1960's, over 90% of the island's food was produced on-island. Today, over 85% comes from off island. The pandemic illustrated the vulnerability of food security on an island dependent on ferry services. In the early days of the pandemic, grocery stores on Galiano were receiving as little as 10% of their orders. Therefore, any initiative to produce food or drink locally contributes to food security for islanders. I understand that this application will result in an orchard and, ultimately, a cidery.

Economic Opportunities--Until the 2021 census, the population had been steadily declining for years. Much of that decline was younger adults and families. At one point the elementary school enrolment reached a low of 25. The largest reason for this decline was lack of economic opportunities on the island. Currently, of permanent residents, 57% are 55 or older, compared to a provincial rate of 37% and 42% are over 65, compared to 22.7% provincially. Prior to the pandemic, which brought an influx of younger people, 59% of Galiano permanent residents were over 55 years old. Much of this influx was from individuals who found ways to work remotely.

In addition to a lower percentage of working adults compared to the province, Galiano has a rate of 19.2% low income compared to the province at 10.8%. Any initiative which provides economic opportunities for residents to live and work on the island enhances the viability of the community as a whole.

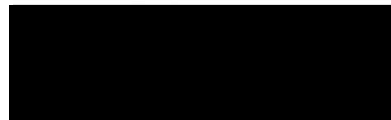
Support of Small Businesses—As everyone on the island is aware, bringing supplies and trades from off island is both significant in terms of costs and difficult to organize. Unless we support our local small businesses by ensuring that there is appropriate zoning available, the inevitable result will be that small businesses will leave/close, and the viability of the community will be impacted—not to mention the increased costs for building and maintenance for all residents. Local small businesses need the availability of appropriately zoned sites to continue to operate their businesses.

Carbon Footprint—I think that everyone must try to contribute to reducing carbon emissions to mitigate climate change. Producing cider locally means that residents have an option which reduces emissions related to transportation. The same is true for the ability to buy local wood products, specifically kiln dried fir. Plus, if fir can be milled and dried locally, there is “value added” and therefore economic benefit.

Location—The site appears to be ideally located for this site-specific zoning due to its proximity to the BC Hydro station and Forestry land. I understand that there are other similar businesses/operations in the area and the hydro right of way provides a buffer between this site and the nearest residential area.

While I recognize that food security, economic opportunities, climate change and support of small businesses are not the specific mandate of the Islands Trust, I would hope that you would consider these factors in making land use decisions.

Sincerely,



Judy Hayes



Galiano Island, B.C.

