

From: Helen Foster [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 2:43 PM
To: Galiano Island Local Trust Committee
Cc: Arjan van Asselt; Elizabeth McClelland; Peter Senkpiel, KC
Subject: CMS Response to July letter and Staff Report
Attachments: CMS request for Abeyance.pdf

Please Find attached the Crystal Mountain Society response to the Staff Report for August 25, 2026

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Helen Foster [REDACTED]

Number GL-RZ-2014.1 (Crystal Mountain)

August 22, 2026

Re: Crystal Mountain Society Rezoning Application

Dear Trustees, Planners and Staff,

We are responding to the letter addressed to Crystal Mountain Society (CMS) dated, July 22, 2026 from Planner Kim Stockdil stating that a request to close the application will be brought to the Trustees on August 25, 2026 due to inactivity on this file. This letter arrived when Board members were on retreat from July 15th to Aug 12th, and legal council is on August vacation, giving very limited opportunity to respond to a complaint we regard as a misconception.

We challenge the procedural fairness of the decision to close the file as it would result in considerable wasted time and expense. As such, we request the LTC allow the applicant to fully and properly respond beyond this tight timeline.

Our preliminary responses include the following:

- 1) Page 76 of the August 25th agenda lists the CMS application as in Abeyance. This is confusing. In this case no reports to staff would be required
- 2) Closing this application would ignore the loss of Public Benefit to the Galiano community; conservation of the forest lands by Nature Protected zoning in accord with the GI OCP. As well, that public benefit includes the meditation retreat facility being created by CMS for the benefit of all.
- 3) This is a very complex application to which all parties involved have taken steps forward and backwards over the past several years. This has left many unanswered questions and concerns that still need to be resolved in a manner acceptable to all involved.

If the CMS rezoning file is not, as listed, already in abeyance please accept this as our request for that designation. If you are not willing to make a decision putting it into abeyance, then we request that the issue be adjourned to a date when we have been given a procedurally fair opportunity to address matters with the assistance of legal counsel.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and to clarification regarding the next steps.

Helen Foster,
Elizabeth McClelland,
Arjan van Asselt