

From: Sharlein Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 9:18 AM
To: Dan Rogers
Cc: northinfo
Subject: LTC meeting - Sept 1 and Keats Issues

Hi Dan,

I'm following up on your most recent email regarding the LTC meeting scheduled for September 1, 2022 on Gambier Island.

As you say, Gambier isn't the appropriate location to hold a community information meeting relating to Keats. The LTC's agenda will, nonetheless, include a discussion of possible amendments to proposed bylaws 153 and 154. In that regard, you've invited island residents to email any suggestions they might want the LTC to consider. After the discussion, the bylaws will be put up for second reading.

The LTC is already aware that many members of the Keats Island community have strong reservations about certain aspects of the proposed bylaws. These have been expressed in correspondence, as well as orally at previous meetings. Without repeating the community's views in detail, you will recall that our chief concern is that the proposed bylaws will inhibit island residents from engaging in the normal course maintenance that is crucial for the safe enjoyment of their properties.

It has been a source of great frustration to the community that, to date, the proposed bylaws have been justified only in largely generic or abstract terms. When asked to identify the objective ecological or geophysical scientific conditions specific to Keats Island the proposed by laws are intended to address, the Islands Trust staff has been unable to do so. Instead, the response has been that since other areas have adopted something similar, the bylaws represent "best practices".

I believe you and the LTC are serious about soliciting meaningful input from the community. However, in order to be able to make genuinely useful suggestions Keats Island residents first need to be aware of the nature, purpose, and practical significance of any bylaw revisions. These aren't necessarily obvious on the face of the draft; they need to be explained. In other words, the community information meeting should happen before the LTC considers second reading.

Moreover, residents are entitled to an opportunity to have their suggestions heard properly. People are not equally comfortable or adept at explaining themselves in writing; rather than being restricted to sending an email that they can't be sure will actually be read or understood, Keats Island residents with concrete suggestions deserve a chance to address the LTC directly so they can explain their own reasoning as fully as possible.

My basic point here is that proceeding with second reading at the September 1 meeting would effectively short circuit the community consultation process. Let's avoid that by having the community information meeting first. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Regards,

Sharlein Smith

Plumper Cove

Keats Island