



**NOTES FROM PETER:** Tim has covered most current and upcoming issues well.

I've sent notice to the email list about how to access the agenda package, schedule and internet connection to the Trust Council meeting that will be already in progress when this issue is delivered. Let me know if you'd like me to send it to you, or check the Meetings and Events page on the Islands Trust web site, [www.IslandsTrust.bc.ca](http://www.IslandsTrust.bc.ca)

It is possible that the current trustees, at this or at our March Trust Council meeting, could decide to reduce the services we provide, and thereby reduce the cost to the taxpayers of funding the Islands Trust. Please have a look at the proposed spending, and our programs, and be prepared to let us know what you want. There will be a consultation and feedback process on the budget for next fiscal year (April 2022 - March 2023), but it wouldn't hurt to let your local trustees know what you think is best about how much property tax to collect and how to spend it.

You'll have the chance to work to join Trust Council and the Lasqueti Trust Committee at the local government elections next fall. If you're not interested yourself, look for someone who you think would represent you well.

We have a special Lasqueti Trust Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, December 6, starting at 9:30. It's all-electronic, except that the "meeting place" (where the public can attend, listen and view) has been designated. I believe it's the Victoria Trust office. The meeting will be live-streamed, with a "Watch Live" button on the meeting page on the web site, so you can listen and watch if you have access to the internet.

The special meeting has only three agenda items:

- to consider and discuss motions to amend the proposed Official Community Plan
- to discuss and decide on our 2022 meeting schedule
- to discuss and consider amending our Meeting Procedure Bylaw

There will be a number of LTC meetings where we will receive input on the proposed OCP. We also welcome written submissions. There will very likely also be a

Community Information Meeting, and we are required to hold a Public Hearing before we decide to give the proposed OCP third reading. After that it goes to the Executive Committee, and then the minister, before coming back to the LTC for final approval and adoption.

Our Meeting Procedures Bylaw does not prohibit trustees from meeting electronically, even for regular meetings, but it does severely limit them. It says that only one trustee can participate electronically at a regular LTC meeting, and that a trustee cannot participate electronically in two consecutive regular meetings. However, the Meeting Procedures Bylaw says that the LTC can waive either or both of these provisions by unanimous resolution - if all three trustees agree.

I have asked that a fourth item be added: a discussion of timely responses to requests or suggestions from First Nations that the Lasqueti Trust Committee meet with them.

The agenda package for the December 6 meeting should be available on the web site before you receive this issue. I don't know if paper copies of the agenda package are still being printed and posted in the community. I'll check and see.

I am considering attending the meeting from the Health Centre, to give people with no internet access an opportunity to at least hear the meeting. The screen is not working, so it won't be possible to project the image so people can view it, too. If nobody is interested, I'll participate from home. I'm happy to come to the Health Centre if anyone wants to attend. Masks are mandatory, but vaccination status is not an issue. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend at the Health Centre to hear the meeting.

I wrote a post on the Lasqueti web site <https://lasqueti.ca/node/6977> about public access to Trust meetings being reduced to only live-streaming, which does not allow anything except listening and watching. Zoom access allowed participation by internet or telephone, but it has been deemed unnecessary and to be taking too much staff time to operate, so it's no longer being used. This makes public participation during a meeting impossible, unless it's an in-person meeting and you are able to attend it. One advantage of the live-streaming is that the meeting is recorded and is available to listen to and watch later.

For now at least, it seems to be a choice of electronic meetings or the possibility of some public participation at

in-person meetings. As long as this is the situation, I'll support in-person meetings. I will work for Zoom meetings to be reinstated for all Trust Council meetings and most Local Trust Committee meetings. Some LTCs do not have internet connections able to provide internet-based service to the public. Zoom (or other service) allow more people to participate without the time, cost and climate-heating effects of unnecessary travel.

Finally, I've prepared three written reports for Trust Council about the Xwe'etay/Lasqueti Archaeology Project. They are in the agenda packages, and I'll post them on the Lasqueti web site soon, and send a link to them to the Lasqueti email. Everyone interested is encouraged to participate in our events, and we hope to be busy on the island and in the intertidal next spring and summer. Details will be posted on the Lasqueti email. Questions and suggestions/requests are welcome.

Thanks for your participation in our community, and especially in the work to preserve and protect the unique amenities of our island. Peter



**NOTES FROM TIM:** On the local front, there is not a lot to report on, as we haven't met since October. The OCP review will continue to be our focus, and although it is still possible that it will be completed before the end of term next October, the process may slow down due to some of the responses from our statutory referral process. Our meeting process continues to evolve as the legislation and situation changes, especially with the persistence of Covid and the limitations it places on us with staffing and public meeting safety.

As I mentioned last month, I have been participating in the meetings of the Financial Planning Committee this fall. There has been a concerted effort by the committee to reduce the projected tax increase in the coming budget, and the FPC has submitted a revised draft to the coming Trust Council meeting that has cut the increase from 9.7% down to 4.6%. Trust Council will then decide whether to accept the recommendations in the draft, or make further amendments. The past practice of using surplus to fund projects without substantive tax increases is a major reason that this process has been so difficult, and the numbers so large. Hopefully the new Trust Council elected next fall can learn from this situation and direct the process towards a more fiscally conservative approach in the future.

Trust Council begins on Tuesday November 30 and runs until December 2. The Townhall session for the public to address Council will be between 1-3 on Wednesday the 1st.

Our next meeting will be the electronic Special Meeting of December 6. Due to the limitations of the legislation, the public will not be able to address the Local Trust Committee at this meeting, but will be able to listen live and watch the recording at any time. The OCP process will require more in person meetings and a Public Hearing prior to Third Reading, and the draft can be amended during this process. Public participation is vital to getting this document right, and the Local Trust Committee remains open to comments and suggestions. As always, feel free to contact your Trustees, or the LTC, with your questions, comments, or concerns.

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### To reach the LTC trustees and planner:

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The water fell from rivers in the sky and found old forgotten lakes and new pathways to the sea.

**LIVFD Dispatch:** The qRD is planning some public engagement to seek feedback on whether our community would prefer to continue using the newly-in-place Amended Option C dispatch system (including the call answer/transfer service by Northern911 in Ontario), at least for a few years, or if we would prefer to adopt the North Island 9-1-1 service (in Campbell River) and associated house numbering and communications tower.

Public engagement was part of the path forward on which the Board has been able to agree on this issue. This will put the question to the community (which, in my view, is