From:

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 10:13 AM

To: SSIInfo

Cc: <u>Laura Patrick; Timothy Peterson; Jamie Harris</u>
Subject: Letter of Support for Application SS-RZ-2019.1

Dear Trustees,

This letter is in support of the approval of rezoning application SS-RZ-2019.1 at 248 Upper Ganges rd.

For over 20 years, Mid Isle Marine & Equipment has provided excellent sales and service to the gulf islands. With the changing economic landscape, they are currently the only business available on the island to go to for marine and small engine sales and services. Their customer base is broad, including year round residents, summer visitors, and essential services like the RCMP and Marine Search and Rescue.

The proposed property that the business operates from is an ideal location for the type of rezoning being requested. Situated between town and Merchant Mews/The Hub, it makes sense to expand the area of commercially available properties here. It was also included in an area identified as ideal for General Employment land use in a past study on the need for more commercially viable land on the island.

In past meetings, there have been valid concerns about the water viability of the property. To address this, Owner Nick Williams has designed and implemented a substantial rainwater catchment system that is effective, sustainable, and well hidden from view. He has respectfully addressed other concerns raised by the Trust and his neighbours to the best of his ability.

I am aware that practical reasons to support this application are more weighted than personal, but I would still like to acknowledge my biased and unique perspective as Nick's wife. I have the privilege to watch him behind the scenes and witness how hard he works and how much he cares about his employees and customers. He is a quiet and dedicated leader who is kind, creative, and respectful. Despite the stress of supporting our family and balancing his responsibilities leading a business, he has tirelessly pursued the goal of this application for nearly 10 years. I have worked with him to go through the proper channels to

find a way to operate in conjunction with our OCP and our island's needs and I believe this application is an optimal solution.

Nick is the kind of changemaker that will push our community forward in positive ways. I am proud to be married to someone with such a stellar reputation as a business owner and a person. I know you recognize this in him as well, evidenced by your past support, which we are so grateful for.

Regardless of my personal testimony, I do truly believe that Mid Isle Marine has become an essential service for our island. Being surrounded by water, there are many needs ideally met for our residents by Nick and his knowledgeable staff. I know our boaters highly value their skills and service and would be sad to see his business close.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration and I hope that you will see the value in approving this application.

All the best,

Emily Williams