

From: Marlyn Horsdal [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 1:25 PM
To: SSInfo
Subject: Bylaw 537 -- attn: Laura Patrick; Jamie Harris

Dear Trustees Patrick and Harris,

Bylaw 530 was withdrawn last year by the Saltspring trustees for good reason -- strong public opposition was expressed about its potential effect, of almost doubling the allowed housing density on the island.

Now the trustees have pushed Bylaw 537, a slightly revised version of 530, quickly through the three required readings all at one Zoom meeting, behind closed doors, at which no input from the public was allowed.

They also avoided a formal Public Hearing. Yes, this is legal by new provincial rules, but only if a housing bylaw does not contravene the Official Community Plan. Bylaw 537 would do exactly that, especially if our trustees expand it, as they say they will, by allowing ad hoc spot zoning for increased numbers of dwellings. This could lead to precisely the result that islanders

opposed so vigorously in Bylaw 530: scattered development.

It is worrying that the LTC used new rules to pass a bylaw that was so opposed by the public, and the Tsawout First Nation, in its first appearance. It is necessary for politicians not only to *act* with honesty and openness but to be *perceived* to do so. In contrast, this passing of Bylaw 537 was hurried and hidden.

The Islands Trust Act was, and is, intended to "preserve and protect" the islands, not "divide and develop" them. Bylaw 537 is that old wolf, Bylaw 530, in very patchy sheep's clothing. It should not proceed.

This bylaw should have been decided upon by the people of Saltspring.

Yours truly,

Marlyn Horsdal

Saltspring Island