

## LTC submission Special meeting June 3rd

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Petrie <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, June 1, 2023 12:48 PM

To: Tobi Elliott <[telliott@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:telliott@islandstrust.bc.ca)>; Kristina Evans <[kevans@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:kevans@islandstrust.bc.ca)>; Dag Falck <[dfalck@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:dfalck@islandstrust.bc.ca)>

Cc: South Pender Planner <[southpenderplanner@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:southpenderplanner@islandstrust.bc.ca)>; Robert Kojima <[rkojima@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:rkojima@islandstrust.bc.ca)>

Subject: Jun 3 special meeting - work program

Please find enclosed my submission for consideration under items 4.2 and 5.1 of the meeting agenda. Thank you for considering my views.

Paul Petrie  
[REDACTED].

Trustees:

Thank you for this further opportunity to review the LTC work program and propose items for the work program in this term. This submission responds to that invitation and I ask that it be considered under items 4.2 and 5.1 of the upcoming meeting agenda.

### Reconciliation

I understand from the correspondence in the agenda package that the Minister of Municipal Affairs has recently provided the Trust with new funding to advance reconciliation with our local First Nations whose traditional unceded territory we are privileged to share. It is timely to take steps now to implement the LTC Standing Resolution 2019-015 on reconciliation and seek available funding to implement the Resolution framework.

The LTC's Standing Resolution 2019-015 provides a reconciliation engagement framework with local First Nations including:

- write a letter to First Nations representatives introducing trustees and staff and providing a schedule of meetings and an update of current projects and advocacy activities;
- invite Elders from local First Nations to attend meetings;
- work with First Nations governments on cooperative initiatives including education on First Nations' cultural heritage and history.
- work with First Nations governments on engagement principles for inclusive land use, marine use and climate change planning, protection and stewardship, etc.
- Establish and maintain ongoing dialogue with First Nations based on respect and recognition.

## **LTC submission Special meeting June 3rd**

South Pender/ S,DÁYES is culturally important unceded Traditional Territory of the W̱SÁNEĆ People. Their long history on this land and surrounding waters is honoured in their stories and well documented in the archeological investigations with evidence of 5,000 years plus presence around what we now know as the Bedwell Harbour basin.

The South Pender Historical Society has had an ongoing community to community engagement with the Tsawout First Nation which has reserve land on South Pender and more recently with the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council. These engagements have resulted in a number of cooperative initiatives. There is a strong foundation for the LTC to take positive steps to increase and enhance recognition of and respect for our local First Nations.

I urge the trustees to make reconciliation a priority issue in the coming term and seek funding support for this through the funds granted to the Trust by the Ministry to implement Standing Resolution 2019-015.

### **Protecting the environment and preparing for climate change.**

The recently released IPCC report identifies the challenges of accelerating climate change and provides important guidance for policy makers at the local government level. Extensive research shows that small islands are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including sea-level rise, extreme weather events, wild fires, droughts and floods. Our Island has many knowl-gable individuals who have expertise in identifying community based mitigation and adaption strategies for addressing the impacts of climate change.

I recommend that the LTC establish a specialized APC to gather ideas, insights and recommendations from islanders to address climate challenges on South Pender Island for consideration by our LTC. This APC could include consideration of the shoreline review that was initiated in the previous term.

### **Brooks Point Rezoning**

The Pender community was instrumental along with PICA and other conservation partners and the CRD in acquiring the land that now forms Brooks Point Regional Park. The acquisition was completed with a \$50,000 contribution from the Federal Ministry of the Environment with the stipulation that protection of the federally protected species at risk (sharp-tailed snake) habitat be fully protected. Community representatives (through

## **LTC submission Special meeting June 3rd**

the Management Plan Advisory Group) were involved in the development of a park management plan giving priority to the conservation values and protection of the habitat of the sharp-tailed snake protected under the Federal Species at Risk Act.

Initially the CRD misclassified the park giving it a recreational focus rather than a conservation focus. The CRD has committed to reclassifying the park to conservation status to coincide with the park Management Plan. However, while this looks good on paper, our experience over the past nine years is that CRD staff have generally managed the park with a recreation focus inconsistent with the conservation status in the park management plan. I recommend the LTC consider rezoning the park to a conservation designation. This would strengthen our community's ability to protect the ecological values in the park and allow PICA to honour the commitment in the contribution agreement with the Federal Government to protect the habitat of the sharp-tailed snake. As indicated in the staff report this would be a minor project.

### **2022 Land Use Bylaw amendments**

Some members of the community have expressed an interest in either rescinding or revising the amendments enacted under bylaw 122. I am opposed to that approach. The land use changes enacted in bylaw 122 are consistent with the Trust Policy Statement and are in keeping with the goals and values in our OCP. The house size limits now in the LUB allow for larger homes well above the approximately 2,000 ft<sup>2</sup> current average house size on South Pender. The revised house size limits can be varied through a variance application which is considered on its merits and takes into account the views and interests of neighbours. We have already had two variances approved under the new bylaw. The current land use bylaw is working well and should be left as is. If there are specific problems identified with the bylaw, they can be address through the amendment process.

Thank you for considering my views.

Paul Petrie

