

25 March 2025

To the Trustees :

I am writing to state my very strong opposition to the recommendations appearing in Draft proposal 129 and to express my opinion that Bylaw 122 provides much stronger support for the OCP goals and Trust mandate to protect and preserve for future generations.

1. I am living with the tension that develops and the invasion of privacy which results with a 10 foot interior side setback. This should not be perpetrated. It invades privacy, destroys natural habit and visual screening and does not support rural lifestyle. As mentioned by one speaker at the February 14th meeting, 40 feet between dwellings as opposed to 20 feet would also encourage the construction of smaller buildings and create a healthy corridor. All of these attributes : privacy, natural habitat, visual screening, smaller buildings and healthy corridors are precious aspects of rural life.

2. Proposing to increase the house size maximum moves South Pender island toward urban values as opposed to rural ones. I strongly support the notation in the staff report that Option #3 in the draft proposal may require legal counsel review.

The current bylaw fully protects all homeowners and supports the goals of the OCP goals and the Trust preserve and protect mandate. Decreasing the side interior setbacks and increasing house size maximum does not. I fail to see any justification for replacing the current Bylaw 122 and very strongly feel that it should be left as it is.

At the February 14, 2025 the South Pender Island Local Staff committee requested that a meeting be scheduled in March or April regarding draft Bylaw No. 129. The agenda package was posted at 4:15 yesterday, Monday, March 24th for a meeting to be held on Thursday, March 27th. This barely meets the requirement of two days notice and will most unfortunately result in residents with appointments etc., not being able to attend the meeting when they otherwise would.

There were 26 work days, excluding weekends, between the February 14th meeting and yesterday, I am wondering why the agenda package couldn't have been posted earlier in order to give people more time to plan. There was more than sufficient time for more notice to have been given and I feel that this short notice is neither good planning nor necessary.

For two years this divisive, expensive, unproductive and stress-inducing 'consultation' has literally poisoned the atmosphere of South Pender Island.

The bylaw which best supports OCP goals and what remains of our extremely precious rural lifestyle is Bylaw 122, not draft proposal 129. For all that we love and value about South Pender Island and for those that come after us, Bylaw 122 must remain as it is.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Daphne Louis

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