

Denman Island Residents Association Public Meeting February 17, 2020

Present: Ron Shepherd, Bob French, Christine Danks, Howard Stewart, Andrew Pringle and 18 other members

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Motion to approve the agenda was moved, seconded and all in favour - **Passed**

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020 Public Meeting- moved, seconded and all in favour - **Passed**

New Business:

1. Insurance Premium Increase Update:

The DIRA general liability and old school insurance rate has doubled from last year to over \$13,000. The policy covers director and officers liability, coverage for volunteers in BC Parks and on the trails and the old school.

The appropriate share of the increased insurance has been passed onto Old School tenants such as Waste Management which is the biggest tenant and a revised budget for 2020 has been submitted to the CVRD.

2. Reminder Regarding Public Meeting April 20th to Solicit Recreation Grant Committee Members Followed by the DIRA AGM:

Jack Forsyth has offered to chair the Recreation Grant Committee and DIRA will be asking for more volunteers at the April 20th meeting to administer the grant distribution. DIRA will also be looking for new board volunteers at the April 20th AGM.

3. Denman Island Roads Community Action Group (DIRCAG):

During the heavy snowfall on Jan 15, 2020 residents complained about their inability to get to Hornby due to road closures on Denman, the closure of the "big hill" due to a school bus and truck getting stuck on the hill, a lack of official road condition reports and difficulty getting medication to patients.

On the other hand, the contractor had 2 snow removal units operating while they are only required to have 1 unit on Denman and the contractor tried to use social media to provide updates.

In hindsight, the contractor realizes their initial decision to work around the bus and truck stuck on the big hill was a mistake which eventually led to the hills closure.

The DIRAG may try to set up another meeting with the ministry and contractor to discuss these issues.

A resident noted that complaints were related to snow removal only and road maintenance in general has been better than in previous years.

4. Waterfowl Hunting in Residential Areas:

DIRA is not an enforcement agency and can't control legal hunting on private property however, a resident expressed concern regarding the early morning shooting of ducks. In addition to the noise, the decrease in duck populations was mentioned as the reason for the concern. Other resident comments included the need for waterfowl to have a resting place in winter and concern regarding the build up of Denman.

A distinction was made between waterfowl and Canada Geese.

Farmers are permitted to shoot Canada Geese on their property, with a permit due to the damage caused to fields and disease which may be spread.

The Islands Trust representative suggested this might be an issue for them to tackle and will look into it.

Committee Reports:

5. Wildlife Advisory Committee:

No violations have been observed lately. No cougars or bears have been sighted. Some dead fawns have been found but their death appears to be natural for this time of year. A letter has been sent to the Community Directory to provide residents with more information regarding who to contact for specific issues.

6. Trails Committee:

The downed tree has been removed from the Boyle Point main trail and a swamp on the trail has been drained. A sign was removed and will be replaced with a concrete base to prevent future damage.

7. Parks Committee:

The CVRD has obtained a license of occupation for the "pocket park" on Piercy Road and will provide funding for grass cutting in 2020. Improvements to the trail to the beach and the installation of picnic tables is scheduled for 2021.

8. Marine Guardians Committee:

Marine Guardians continue to pick up significant quantities of shellfish equipment on beaches from Gladstone Way to Chrisman Rd after every NW wind. Some of the debris is picked up by collectors and shellfish farmers. They were not sure who owned it. Only the high grade material was collected leaving the industry plastic waste that they are unable to redeem/reuse.

DFO continues to have no staff to do inspections or enforcement at this time and ADMIS is working with an industry rep to find solutions.

BCIT donated \$75 in appreciation for organizing the student visit last November.

Marine Guardians also provided the DI Garden Club information regarding the harm caused by seaweed harvesting (from a recent publication by Dr. Leah Bendell et al).

9. Internet Committee:

Telus advised that they would no longer proceed with the plan to put fiber optic cable on Denman and Hornby, after having agreed to the project earlier.

Without this partner, there does not appear to be any other options at this time and there are no plans for further action. A wireless solution does not seem to be supported by residents.

A detailed feasibility study and consultants report were posted to the Internet Committee website.

10. Community Dock Committee:

Very quiet time of year with few boats. A resident mentioned the need for more gravel in the parking lot.

Liaison Reports:

11. Islands Trust:

The 2 Denman affordable housing applications (Low Income Seniors and Denman Green) have been given first reading and continue to move along the regulatory process. Water is an issue with both applications, however the province has issued a water licence for the Low Income Seniors Housing which Islands Trust has accepted. No water has been found on Denman Green and Islands Trust has determined water catchment may be acceptable if there is a backup option, such as access to a private well. Eventually there will be a public hearing to inform and gather feedback from residents. There will be a Trust Council meeting in March when budgets will be discussed and a Local Trust meeting on March 17th.

12. Ferry Advisory:

The Ferry Advisory Council has received feedback from residents requesting the implementation of the late night sailing year round, rather than just during the summer. Residents were encouraged to write directly to the minister if they want expanded service. BC Ferries responds to such requests by saying they are fulfilling their contract and are not funded to provide more service.

Big gravel trucks are using the ferry due to repair work at the Gavelley Bay breakwater. Due to weight capacity the BSC may appear to be running less than full, but it will shuttle as required.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.