

## **Denman Island Residents Association Public Meeting January 13, 2020**

Present: Ron Shepherd, Bob French, Frieda Werden, Howard Stewart, Andrew Pringle and 15 other members

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

Motion to change the agenda to defer the Old School Budget, and then a motion to approve the agenda was moved, seconded and all in favour - **Passed**

Motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2019 General Meeting- moved, seconded and all in favour - **Passed**

New Business:

1. Insurance Renewal:

The DIRA general liability and old school insurance rate is expected to double from last year. The policy covers director liability, coverage for volunteers in BC Parks and on the trails and the old school.

The insurance broker has been looking for options to bring the rate down, but no positive results yet. The CVRD has also been informed of the situation.

2. Deer Hunting:

Forests, Lands and Natural Resources (FLNR) has proposed changes to the Deer Hunting Season on Denman and Hornby Islands, as follows:

Currently the hunting season on Hornby and Denman Islands for deer opens on October 5 and runs through December 10. The proposal is to synchronize the start date with the rest of the region by moving the start date to September 10. In addition, there is a proposal to establish a bow only season that would open August 25 and runs through September 9 each year. These regulations are currently in place across Vancouver Island and the other Gulf Islands.

Public comment may be made on the Forest, Lands and Natural Resources /Angling, Hunting and Trapping Engagement site: <https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ahte/>. The closing date for comments is January 19, 2020.

The DIRA board advised FLNR they are not in favour of extending the hunting season. The Wildlife Advisory Committee advised FLNR their majority opposes expanding the hunting season.

The current season is the result of negotiation between DIRA and the provincial government about 20 years ago.

A resident volunteered to post this information on the Facebook Denman Island Bulletin Board so interested residents can also respond directly.

3. Hunting in BC Parks:

The DIRA Parks Committee has been advised by BC Parks that hunting is allowed in the Provincial Park. Contrary, FLNR has advised that hunting is not allowed in Provincial Parks.

DIRA will continue to investigate to determine which is correct.

**Committee Reports:**

4. Bill Mee Committee:

This is a very quiet time of the year, however some off road driving has caused damage to the parking lot.

5. Internet Committee:

The open houses in November were very well attended demonstrating a high level of community interest propelling the committee on to the next phase where various options were evaluated. Only the following option was determined to be workable:

Telus will build a universal fiber cable to every house on Denman and Hornby.

Three sources of funding may be available. The Provincial Government is offering some money which needs to be applied for prior to Feb 15. The federal government is offering some funding via the CRTC which needs to be applied for before the end of March. Telus has offered to take the lead in getting these applications submitted.

The third funding source needs to be residents via a tax increase if the CVRD agrees and residents agree via a referendum.

The next phase will involve more open house presentations to inform residents and determine what level of community approval exists. The date will be Saturday, February 1st.

The internet committee will inform residents via facebook, the grapevine and road signs.

6. Marine Guardians Committee:

Baynes Sound beaches are littered with many shellfish baskets and other debris after yesterday's windstorm. Residents were advised to at least bring the debris above high tide for now and then it will all be removed once there is another beach clean-up.

7. Pesticide Free Committee:

Projects and Activities completed in 2019:

March 17 - First "Let's Bee Pesticide Free", a very well attended forum,

March - April - sold seeds at the Saturday Market to supplement the broom pulling expenses,

May - local workers hired to pull broom and broom was hauled to a local farm, and monthly articles were posted in the Flagstone paper to bring pesticide awareness to residents.

Anticipated Projects and Activities for 2020:

March 7 - a community event in collaboration with Denman Conservancy,

May - annual broom pulling project, and monthly Flagstone articles.

8. Waste Management Committee:

The new cardboard bailer is taking slightly longer to get installed than anticipated but should be in operation by spring. A tender has been posted to remove the old bailer.

**Liaison Reports:**

9. Islands Trust:

The Local Trust Committee has been working exclusively on the two affordable housing lately, but progress is being made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.