

Denman Island Residents Association Public Meeting October 16, 2023

Present: Ron Shepherd (chair), Andrew Pringle, Jenny Balke plus 19 residents

1. The public meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.
2. There was a motion to adopt the agenda - moved, seconded and all in favour -
MOTION PASSED
3. The motion to approve the minutes from the last public meeting on September 11th was deferred until the next public meeting.

4. Cross Island Ferry Traffic

Tracy Simkins is leading an initiative regarding cross island ferry traffic and invited RCMP constable Paul Jones to respond to residents' concerns.

Paul stressed the importance of reporting both emergency (911) and non-emergency situations to the RCMP. There is a minimum 1.5 hour response time for emergencies and after hour emergencies will take longer with a boat out of Comox.

The issue residents are concerned with, which the RCMP can assist with, is speeding and reckless driving between ferries. The RCMP traffic unit came over once or twice during the past summer.

The Ministry of Transportation is responsible for road signage and the RCMP is responsible for enforcement. RCMP and MoT staff meet and can make recommendations.

Denman Island is so small, policing is paid for by the BC Government. Resources are allocated by the officer in charge, based on need. There used to be dedicated officers for Hornby and Denman, but that is not happening now. There is a bike unit which comes over from time-to-time but that is a low priority and often gets pulled due to other calls.

The RCMP can issue a ticket from a public complaint, if that person (witness) is willing to go to traffic court. Regardless, all complaints (emergency and non-emergency) should be forwarded to the RCMP. At the least, a profile can be built regarding a driver or a dangerous situation. Even if a road is blocked, traffic congestion or if someone is driving on the wrong side of the road, it is helpful, in the long term, to report it to the RCMP. Without a physical RCMP office on Denman it's more difficult to gather statistics. **Facts and numbers are important to substantiate the situation.**

Speed bumps on the roads are not an option. Cameras are no longer allowed for monitoring traffic speed. Pilot cars leading traffic between ferries is not an option.

A resident suggested the RCMP recommend BC Ferries provide safe driving instruction over the public announcement system on board.

With 2 ferries running this past summer, traffic went from sporadic to constant. An East Road resident called the traffic the "Denman 500".

The ICBC speed watch program may be an option. Each car's speed is displayed on a board and ICBC will send letters to speeding drivers.

This portion of the meeting concluded when Paul needed to catch the last ferry off Denman. Tracy will follow-up with the RCMP and ICBC.

5. **DIRA Executive Report**

To clarify DIRA correspondence, DIRA reserves the right to insist on clarity.

The original letter to the BC Premier regarding diverting Hornby ferry traffic off Denman did not contain adequate information for the reader to understand the situation and the DIRA executive delayed sending until more information could be added. The letter has been rewritten and will now be signed and forwarded.

6. **Wildlife Advisory Committee:**

The motion regarding feral animals was carried forward to the next DIRA meeting.

Peter Karstens sent a letter to the responsible ministry asking for the bear on Denman to be trapped and removed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.