

Denman Island Residents Association Public Meeting October 18, 2021

Present: Ron Shepherd, Bob French, Frieda Werden, Howard Stewart, Andrew Pringle and 20 other residents

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M. in the back-hall with the following COVID protocols in place; proof of vaccination, masks and social distancing.

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of an update regarding the recent fire department exercise, all in favour - **Passed**

Administration and New Business Report:

1. COVID 19 has prevented DIRA from holding regularly scheduled general meetings however volunteers continue to keep the committees active.
2. 2020 members will be automatically renewed for 2021.
3. The Recreation Grant Committee assessed applications and awarded Recreation Grants in 2021, as follows;

Denman West Boat Launch	\$ 770
DICES	\$11,230
Pre-School Society	\$ 5,000
Graham Lake Swim Dock	\$ 1,000
Total	\$18,000
4. The current DIRA board agreed to extend their board participation to April 2022.
5. DIRA budgets for 2022 were submitted to the CVRD as follows:

Waste Management Committee	\$112,800
Bill Mee Committee	\$ 6,200
Parks Committee	\$ 2,000
Trails Committee	\$ 2,750
Pesticide Free Committee	\$ 3,000
DIRA Administration	\$ 10,700
Total	\$137,450
6. The DIRA board agreed to reactivate the Internet Committee for the purpose of facilitating their application for CVRD funding to support their initiatives in favour of the fibre optic project. Two local residents have spent a considerable amount of personal time moving this project forward.

There was some discussion regarding the community wide referendum to approve the installation of fibre optic cable across Denman. All adults who live on Denman for the past 30 days are eligible to vote. Property owners can use write in ballots. Drop approval forms need to be completed to lock in costs. Residents can change their minds

regarding the connection, with no cost but without the Drop Approval form hook up costs are unpredictable.

7. The DIRA board agreed to accept the Denman Island Neighbourhood Preparedness Association as a committee of DIRA. It seems like a good fit with the DIRA mandate of furthering the interests and general welfare of Denman Island residents.

The chairperson, Edi Johnson made a presentation explaining the need to improve neighbourhood representation. Currently only 12 of the 34 neighbourhood coordinator positions have been filled. These are the people who will hand out emergency status packages, have walkie talkies, first aid kits and interface between residents and authorities.

8. Waste Management is about to sign off on a new garbage pickup contract. There were 2 responses to the request for proposal and the winner was Strathcona Recycling and Disposal. The route has been expanded, for the first time, to include the north end of Denman, via Danes Rd, Park Rd and Swan Rd.

The bag charge will not be changed.

9. The Community Dock Committee submitted the required renewal information (such as; business plan and proof of insurance) and the tenure has been renewed with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development for a 30 year term.

10. A resident and volunteer firefighter provided an impromptu report regarding the Denman Island Fire Department joint exercise with other fire departments and emergency personnel. 44 firefighters from Oyster River, Fanny Bay, Hornby and Denman simulated emergency scenarios on Lake Road and vicinity. Lessons were learned.

Committee Reports:

11. Community Dock Committee:

The old and deteriorating breakwater has been removed. The committee is considering a more permanent breakwater structure however that will have to wait until funding can be obtained. In the short term, another steel (lined with foam and cement) replacement breakwater has been purchased.

Underwater inspection shows the dock structure is sound. The breakwater is necessary to protect the dock.

The Dock Committee took on responsibility for the Sailing Club dock after the Sailing Club dissolved. This is a lower dock, more suitable for kids sailing. It was moved to shore, adjacent to the walkway, for winter storage.

Over the summer, the dock committee had problems with some people refusing to pay dock fees which required RCMP intervention in one situation.

A buoy which was slashed was shown to the residents to demonstrate the vandalism which happens at the dock. Other issues include; damage to the shrubbery from vehicles backing up too far, removal of a no parking sign, graffiti, litter and vehicles blocking access.

Ron added, the dock is owned by DIRA, it is private property. The dock does not get CVRD funding and dock fees are very important. There are only 4 people on the dock committee and that's a lot of work and responsibility.

12. Wildlife Advisory Committee:

The purpose of this committee is to deal with wildlife concerns on the island, including deer injured or killed, dog concerns and other wildlife concerns. The wildlife advisory contacts will be included in future updates to the phone directory.

There have been no WAC meetings this year due to COVID restrictions and no changes to membership. The WAC has an open invitation for new members to join - just like all the committees.

Committee members removed 3 adult deer and 7 fawn, responded to calls regarding injured or orphaned birds and trapped bats, and responded to multiple dog concerns such as dogs chasing wildlife, killing chickens, running loose and displaying aggression.

13. Waste Management Committee:

A new assistant manager has been hired at the recycling depot.

The process for getting bids to replace the leaky roof has been started. The new garbage contract was discussed earlier with the new business.

14. Trails Committee:

Two electric motors have been purchased. These can be used during dry periods when gas powered motors are banned.

Residents who observe any issues or concerns on the trails should contact Allan Danks who will investigate and get a work party together if necessary.

15. Bill Mee Committee:

The budget for 2022 has been increased to enable removal of the old wooden top ramp, which needs to be dug out and replaced with concrete.

Liaison Reports:

16. Islands Trust:

The seniors housing project on Pepper Lane has successfully passed all the Islands Trust requirements. All that's left is senior government sign-off.

The Local Trust Committee showed the film "Dust and Bones" to help residents better understand native issues such as found native historical items.

On November 2nd there will be an in-person local trust meeting at the Activity Centre. Their goal is for a hybrid meeting of in-person and online attendance. The agenda will include; next steps for the affordable housing project called Denman Green, review of agricultural regulations and discussion regarding increasing fees.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.