

Denman Island Residents Association Public Meeting Sept 9, 2019

Present: Ron Shepherd; chair, Robert French, Chris Danks, Andrew Pringle and 22 other members

1. General Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M.
2. Motion to adopt the agenda was moved, seconded and all in favour - **MOTION PASSED**
3. Motion to approve the minutes from June 10, 2019 was moved, seconded and all voted in favour - **MOTION PASSED**

Executive Report:

4. New DIRA Directors

Notice of a Special Resolution was sent to members via email, to inform them that there will be a proposal at the next DIRA general meeting, September 9, 2019, to appoint Christine Danks and Howard Stewart to the DIRA Board of Directors.

This advance notice was provided under the requirements of DIRA Bylaw 5.4.

There was a motion to appoint Christine Danks and Howard Stewart to the DIRA Board of Directors. The motion was seconded and all voted in favour - **MOTION PASSED**

5. DIRA Bookkeeper

Lyndsey Jennings has been selected to fill the bookkeeping position advertised in the Grapevine in July, 2019.

6. Presentations

CVRD Housing Services Study Proposal:

Laura Busheikin informed residents about a possible CVRD study (not an Islands Trust initiative) to gauge local support.

Denman residents pay taxes for Regional District services to fund homelessness and other housing needs however are not getting any of these services. The CVRD had a referendum to gather housing information, however that survey did not include Denman and our local CVRD Representative is interested in getting more information regarding Denman/Hornby specific needs. The CVRD Regional Directors would need to vote in-favour of funding a feasibility study to gather this information.

There was a motion to support a housing feasibility study on Denman Island.

During the discussion, Laura informed everyone that the study is “wide open” and will look at whatever issues the community wants to study. A resident questioned the role of previous housing studies and Laura responded that previous studies will be used. Another resident said this study is timely.

The motion was seconded and all voted in favour - **MOTION PASSED**

Denman Island Bus Service:

Keith Porteous has bought a bus and would like to offer a shuttle service between Denman West and Gravelly Bay, and other special events as required. The Hornby Economic Development folks believe it is important that public transportation is provided across Denman.

The bus will be called “The Wrong Bus” as a way of generating discussion. The bus is 2008, bio-diesel and has 219,000 km. Denman Works has pledged support to pay for the training of Class 4 drivers.

Water Needs Survey:

Laura Pope believes that there is a lot of interest in water and would like to know what support there is to do a survey, questioning residents regarding their water usage, water quality, water availability and whatever other issues are important. She would like to have a survey in the Grapevine by the end of the year to see if there really is enough interest to warrant further community discussion.

A resident said this would provide a good baseline with climate change and the increased number of residents.

Climate Emergency:

Ron Wilson is interested in fostering action in response to the current climate emergency and has organized a discussion in the Community Hall on September 18th with Guy Dauncey as a special guest speaker.

In addition, Ron would like to form a DIRA committee to coordinate climate action initiatives.

There was a motion to establish a climate action committee of DIRA.

The motion was seconded and all voted in favour - **MOTION PASSED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dock Committee:

This summer, one of the mooring lines came apart allowing a vessel and the buoy to drift against a BC Ferries piling, from where it was rescued and towed back to the dock.

Pictures of the damage to the boat were taken and the owner was informed that repair claims would need to be substantiated with pictures, a repair estimate, repair pictures and an invoice. The Dock Committee hasn't heard back from the boat owner yet.

A replacement buoy has been installed and an underwater camera was used to document everything.

Half the parking lot railings have been sanded and painted and the rest will be done soon.

A new fruit tree for the parking lot was donated by Shona Janeway and will be planted next month.

Boat Launch Committee:

A new sign has been posted and the deck surface is not too slippery. There are no problems to report.

Internet Committee:

Peter Spurr updated residents regarding the following recent events. Telus has assigned a person to communicate directly with the Internet Comm. and has made an initial offer to provide fibre optic cable to every household on Denman for \$11.6 million. Telus will pay \$2.5 million of that.

In addition, about \$50,000 has been raised from various levels of government to study needs on Denman and Hornby. There will be a major consultation to inform residents what their options are. Information will be posted in the Grapevine this week and an open house will be scheduled.

Marine Guardians Committee:

Edi Johnson reported that in-spite of all the work that has been done, she recently observed rebar spikes (not shepherd hooks) still being installed.

Parks Committee:

Laura Pope reported that a 200 meter connector or bridge has been built to enable access to the east side of the Denman Island Provincial Park without trespassing on private property. This was a joint venture of the Trails and Parks Committees.

The CVRD has a License of Occupation for the 1.6 acre site across from the Piercy Farm. In the fall they will provide a public information meeting to discuss with residents.

On September 28th the CVRD will be at the Recycling Centre to provide information on the next phase of the cross island trail on East Road.

Waste Management Committee:

Bob French informed residents that the area below backstairs at the old school has been enclosed due to too much dumping of all sorts of rubbish. Pots can no longer be left at this spot.

Wildlife Advisory Committee:

Peter Karstairs informed residents there are 2 major sources of work for the committee. They are deer issues and dog issues. Updated contact info will be in the next issue of the local phone directory. New members have recently joined and Dennis Forsyth has resigned after more than 20 years service.

Conservation Officers must approve those people who are responding to deer issues.

New deer warning signs will be prepared and posted soon.

A motion was made to thank Dennis Forsyth for his work and a presentation was made of a Robert Bateman picture.

The motion was seconded and all voted in favour (with a round of applause) - **MOTION PASSED**

LIAISON REPORTS:

Islands Trust:

Laura Busheikin informed everyone the next Islands Trust meeting is Oct 3rd and most of their current efforts are devoted to the 2 local housing projects.

Next week, 26 trustees will be meeting on Bowen Island to discuss their strategic plan and to prioritize initiatives. The biggest issue is climate change, mitigation and adaptation.

On Oct 29th Islands Trust will be discussing revisions to their policy statement for the first time in 20 years.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20, seconded and passed.