

Minutes of the meeting of the Denman Island Residents Association (DIRA) held Monday, January 13, 2014 in the Back Hall, located at 1196 Northwest Road, BC, commencing at 7:30 pm.

Present: Chair: Frank Frketich
Executive: Denise MacKean, Minute taker
Doug Wright
Bob French
Laurie Montemurro

Apologies: Ron Shepherd

Call to Order: 40 people in attendance.

Motion: to accept the Agenda. **Carried.**

Motion: to approve the Minutes of December 9, 2013 General Meeting **Carried.**

Executive Report:

Frank reported that the Board has accepted the recommended changes to DIRA's Constitution and Bylaws suggested by Frank and Bert Taylor and reviewed by the Board. The new document with highlighted changes will now go on the DIRA website for the membership to look over and comment on. Bert Taylor will be available at the next General Meeting in February for questions. We hope to adopt the revised Constitution and Bylaws at the March General Meeting.

DIRA's Commercial Liability Insurance: CVRD will help pay for this which now can be covered by the DIRA administrative budget taking the burden off individual committees. Coverage is \$2 million liability coverage which covers committees and \$1 million Directors Insurance.

New Business:

Frank read out his suggested response on behalf of DIRA to the BC Ferry Commissioner, Gord Macatee, who is carrying out a review of the cable ferry project. The Ferry Commissioner has the power to look at the Ferry Corporation future plans and has the power to question them. **Motion** that the DIRA membership approve the sending of this document, with minor changes discussed, to the Ferry Commissioner. **Carried.**

Does DIRA have a role in the next stage of the Ferry Engagement Process? Responses to this question run from “do not respond at all” to “make suggestions of which runs might be acceptable to drop”. Frank has spoken to Don McCrae who is our MLA explaining the effects of changes on Denman Island and emphasizing the need for the Ferry Service to be part of highways. McCrae stated clearly that no more money is available from the government and is unwilling to argue our case in cabinet. Should DIRA express our response to the new schedule presentation? Discussion followed.

Doug Wright presented a possible schedule proposal to look for cost savings of up to

roughly \$424,000 as an example for consideration. Comments followed:
Calling for savings also takes money out of the community.
Tell them what we are owed not what we can save them.
A concern that we are capitulating.
Need to accept their intentions as historically that is the way it's always been done.
Decreased ridership means decreased revenues which hurts communities.
We do not accept any of this but if you can't hear us these are the least-worst cuts.
Let them know the whole system is broken.
Could our suggestions be kept back until we get full financial figures for each run? Ask
for a postponement.

Motion: That the DIRA executive be authorized to send a letter to BC Ferries recommending that peak season must start on the May long weekend and terminate in mid September. **Carried.**

Motion: That the ferry schedule cuts be postponed for one year to allow for full community consultation as well as a thorough community socio-economic study.
Further that this request be directed to Minister Stone and BC Ferries. **Carried.**

Motion: That DIRA recommend to BC Ferries that the 9:40/10 pm runs and the 6:40/7am runs must be retained all year round. **Carried.**

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.**

Minute taker:

Chair:

Denise MacKean

Frank Frketich