

**Denman Island Residents Association**  
**Public Meeting March 10, 2025**

Present: Ron Shepherd (chair), Stirling Fraser, Claudia Kroll-Gray, Chris Danks, Andrew Pringle, Jenny Balke, plus 8 residents

1. The public meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M.
  
2. There was a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of opening comments and an update from the Purple Martin Committee - moved, seconded and all in favour - MOTION PASSED.
  
3. There was a motion to approve the minutes from the last public meetings on November 18<sup>th</sup> - moved, seconded and all in favour - MOTION PASSED.

4. **DIRA Executive Report Opening Comments**

DIRA memberships must be renewed every year. An email was sent to all current members reminding them to renew for the new year.

More board members are required by the AGM next month. The current chair will be stepping down at the AGM after 12 years on the board. Two or three other board members will also be resigning.

5. **Highways Public Meeting:**

DIRA board member, Jenny Balke, put a lot of effort into organizing a public meeting for the MOTI area manager - David LaRue and a representative from the Denman road contractor - Mainroad to discuss concerns. The meeting will be on Monday March 27 from 1 - 3 PM in the back hall.

The following issues from previous discussions, were summarized:

- road surface conditions,
- pedestrian safety,
- culverts/erosion control,
- ferry traffic (at both terminals and downtown),
- contractors duties/expectations,
- spending allocation, and
- bike safety

## **6. Community Dock and Boat Launch Committee:**

The dock committee decided to make the following changes to their policies to raise more revenue:

- no seasonal fee reductions, \$1 per foot year round,
- free time reduced from 6 hours to 3 hours,
- the 5 day maximum stay will remain the same.

The Dock/Boat Launch Committee was able to get BC Ferries to pay for crew usage of the dock.

2025 Boat Launch decals are available now. \$25 for unlimited use of the facility.

Repairs and annual maintenance to the dock are ongoing. New collars will be installed.

## **7. Pesticide Free Committee:**

Scotch broom is considered the number 1 invasive plant with the following partial list of reasons why we need to be concerned;

- toxic to grazing animals,
- leads to loss of biodiversity,
- dominates and degrades farmland and parks.

The Pesticide Free committee has collaborated with the Broom Busters Invasive Plant Society - which has local groups all over Vancouver Island, some gulf islands and 17 local governments are participating. Anne Page narrated a Broom Busters electronic presentation.

New advice is to cut the broom at the soil level not to pull it. Pulling disturbed the soil enough to encourage seeds to grow.

The committee will be taking the following 3 approaches in 2025:

1. one person will be hired to cut broom,
2. volunteers will work together at selected sites on various dates in April - June, and
3. residents with broom will be able to drop it off at the fire hall and then will be hauled to a local farm for compost.

A signup sheet was circulated for volunteers. The volunteers will concentrate on less busy roads.

A resident asked whether broom cutting would qualify for funding under the FireSmart Program. Anne will inquire.

## **8. Purple Martin Committee:**

The Purple Martin Committee has been moved from the Parks Committee to the Wildlife Advisory Committee.

There are 27 nest boxes.

Birds show up at the end of April so the boxes will be cleaned soon.

## **9. Waste Management Committee:**

The current bookkeeper, Nettie Pasieczka is retiring and Virginia MacCuspic has been hired to take over the financial duties.

A new 3 year garbage contract has been signed with Strathcona Recycling, who have been providing the service for the last 3 years. The contract was advertised in the Comox Valley and on Denman Island.

The Bottle Depot has been losing money and will take the following measures to eliminate the loss:

- reduce off-season hours by a half hour (recycling centre will also open a half hour later),
- charity bin payouts will be reduced from quarterly to annually,
- charity bins reduced from 34 to 24,
- handling fees for charities will increase from 15% to 30% and
- recycling will pay the bottle depot rent.

Recycling and bottle depot staff have identified the following problems with the old school "barn";

- too small,
- roof leaks,
- loading bay floods,
- no way to heat and
- no washroom.

The CVRD funds operating costs associated with providing recycling services and in 2025 will undertake a facility study to guide whether to provide funding for a renovation, expansion or a new building.

Motion to adjourn meeting, all in favour.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.