

Denman Island Residents Association
MINUTES
Executive Meeting
Old School
September 2, 2025, 4:00 PM

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Document History

Status	Date	Responsibility	Comment
Draft	2025-09-16	Tony Gregson	Distribution to Board

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In attendance: Jenny Balke (Chair); Ron Wilson (Vice-Chair); Stirling Fraser (Treasurer); Andrew Pringle (Secretary); Tony Gregson (director); Graeme Isbister (director); Virginia MacCuspic (bookkeeper).

The meeting convened at 4:10 PM

- 1. Approval of Minutes of Special Executive Meeting August 5, 2025:** (SF/AP) Carried with no changes.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** (SB/TG) Carried with no changes.

3.0 DIRA Finances

3.1 *Transfer of Records*

JB transferred the laptop and other records held by former Chair Ron Shepherd into custody of the bookkeeper, Virginia MacCuspic.

- Virginia already has most financial records. She will review the transfer from Ron and destroy what she does not need. Retained records are destroyed after six years.

3.2 *Financial Summary /Update for Executive*

AGREED: The monthly financial summary, entitled DIRA Admin, shall consist of the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss for current month and to date from January 1st.

- Does not include specific financial reports for committees that have their own statements, such as Waste Management and Bottle Depot.
- Detail on the finances of each committee can be pulled separately as required.
- The following questions arose about finances in general:
 - CVRD decision-making process on budgets
 - Retention of surpluses
 - Separation of Recreation Commission Grants from DIRA ADMIN statement
- The funds that DIRA administers consists of grants made to constituent committees with some exceptions. DIRA's own funds consist of an administration fee of 10% on the grant funding.

3.3 *2026 Budgets*

ACTION: SF to contact all committees for 2026 five-year financial plans due in mid-October. Exec would appreciate an opportunity to review the budget submission.

- DIRA has no input in committee budgets which do not normally come to DIRA for oversight, but Treasurer consolidates all the budgets into a single budget presentation to CVRD.

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- Ron Shepherd did provide in input on the budget process for individual committees but only on an advisory basis.

ACTION: SF to convene a meeting to discuss budget with Jenny, Andrew, and Virginia.

3.4 Addition of Virginia MacCuspig to Board

MOTION: That Virginia MacCuspig join the Board as a director-at-large.
(SB/JB; Carried)

- Virginia should be a director as she has signing authority together with Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.
-

4.0 ISSUES IN PREPARATION FOR PUBLIC MEETING

4.1 Pesticide Free Committee

Pesticide Committee has no members except for Ann Paige (leaving in September. Could write articles but need direct approach. Pesticide Free committee is misleading because it does not deal with the full range of their activity. Articles in papers have not generated interest so a direct approach is required.

ACTION: Target the following committees for potential members:

- ADIMS
- Denman Conservancy
- Garden Club
- Trails Committee

MOTION: That DIRA prepare a budget for Pesticide Free Committee for 2026 subject to appointment of a new board. JB/SB; Carried.

4.2 Roads Committee

The committee will be submitting their proposed terms of vote at the next public meeting.

4.3 DIRA 55 Celebration Report

- DIRA has a new banner

ACTION: Executive to come to next meeting with thought on the organization of a logo contest.

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4.4 HIRRA – dog control issue response

A letter (Annex 1) was submitted by Jenny Balke and Edi Johnston from DIRA urging HIRRA to support a request to the CVRD to revive funding for an animal control study for Hornby and Denman. HIRRA will be voting in first week of September.

4.5 Denman Island Climate Action Committee

DICAN is holding several events:

- Draw the Line – Sept 20th. Climate Fair in the Outdoor Recreation Space. Hard to get public attention, but there are articles in local papers, and signage. Advertising funds have come from CVRD.
- Eco Trust Canada – Sept 27th. Presentation at Community Hall. The talk on energy efficiency will be given by Michael Anthony Lufti will also give a workshop on DIY air filters. The event is cosponsored by DICAN and DIRA.
- DICAN is focused on sustainability
- DICAN is closely associated with Seniors for Climate at 350.org.
- Talk about the Old School heat pump project at next DIRA public meeting (Sept 8).
- There may be excess money from heat pump fundraising but Old School needs that for structural repairs.

4.6 Recreation Grants

ACTION: Invite grant recipients to address public meetings about how their grant is being used.

ACTION: TG to report to Executive on discussion between Denman Works and Recreation Grant Committee regarding comparative process improvements and possible funding overlap.

4.7 Waste Management

Pick up trial for Takeout is reportedly going well.

5.0 OTHER ISSUES

5.1 Newcomers Event

Attendees found the event successful in inviting the public but chaotic in terms of interaction with organization booths.

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5.2 DIRA Website

Andrew is working with Sonia Murillo on upgrades.

5.3 DIRA annual report

ACTION: Andrew to meet with Tony to transition procedure for submission of BC Societies annual report.

5.4 Electric Bus

An electric bus for the Denman Bus Service would be good for emissions reduction.

- DIBS could use some support in grant writing in trying to obtain an electric bus.
- Amalgamation with Hornby Bus Service has been studied by CVRD but Hornby is not supportive. This may change if the school bus contract becomes available.
- Bus service could potentially migrate to DIRA as a committee but in the past DIRA turned down the idea because of concerns about liability. If a Bus Service committee was approved by DIRA, the service would transfer from Denman Works without change.
- Not a burning issue at this time but would love to collaborate with DICAN on funding.
- The Denman Bus Service would be a great advertisement for DIRA as a highly visible service.

5.5 Public Meetings

Promotion plans included:

AGREED: Public meetings to be scheduled every month

ACTION: Ads in the Barnacle and Grapevine

ACTION: Articles on issues if and when brought up at a public meeting.

ACTION: Get people to bring public issues, whether there is a committee or not, e.g. Graham Lake Water system

ACTION: Ask Bill Engleson to post on Facebook

MOTION: That for DIRA public meetings childcare should be provided with one facilitator for two hours at \$25 per hour. (JB/TG; Carried)

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ACTION: Sam to speak to likely childcare facilitator candidates such as Mikel Roos.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM

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Annex 1: Animal Control Study Letter to HIRRA

Animal Control Issues DIRA 2025

HIRRA

Thu, Aug 28, 4:49 PM)

Administrator <hornbyisresidentsratepayers@gmail.com> to DIRA,
me, Edina

Hello DIRA (Jenny and Edi),
The Executive have added

"MOTION requesting a CVRD Animal Control Bylaw feasibility study for Hornby and Denman"
to the Sept. 10 HIRRA public meeting agenda.
I will let you know the outcome.

Cheers, Reina LeBaron, Executive Administrator

Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association (HIRRA)

Ph: (250) 335-1131 Email: <office@hirra.ca>

With great appreciation, I acknowledge that I live on the traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, including formerly separate tribes of Pentlatch, E'iksán, Satsila, and Sahltoot peoples.

On Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 11:44 AM Edina Johnston <edijohnston@gmail.com> wrote:

Denman Island Residents Association dira.residents@gmail.com

July 31, 2025

Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association

4305 Central Road, Hornby Island, BC, V0R 1Z0 Ph: (250) 335-1131 E-mail: office@hirra.ca

Dear HIRRA: request for CVRD animal control for both Hornby and Denman Islands

Dogs are great companions and additions to any household but they can cause problems when not properly trained. Chasing animals and even bike riders, being aggressive to people and animals, wandering and not being under the supervision of a responsible carer when out in public are just a few examples.

Which is why Hornby attempted to rectify the problem five years ago.

In September 2020 HIRRA sent a letter to the CVRD which stated- "In January 2020, at the direction of our membership, HIRRA requested that the CVRD undertake an animal control bylaw feasibility study for Hornby Island. We received a response from Jake Martens that recommended we bring forward a request for a joint feasibility study with Denman for 2021."

A CVRD Staff Report from October 22, 2020 stated that the Chief Administrative Officer recommended "THAT a feasibility study be conducted to explore options and costs associated with animal control services on Hornby Island and Denman Island in 2021; AND FURTHER THAT \$12,000 be included in the proposed 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan"

The CVRD decided not to move forward with the feasibility study at that time and no further work took place on the project. Then a more recent CVRD email stated that "Both DIRA and HIRRA were notified of this decision and can re-apply to the CVRD in the future if they would like to try again to have a study supported."

Due to the ongoing and increasing problem of uncontrolled dogs "at large" on Denman, at the June 9th, 2025 DIRA General Meeting, a motion was passed asking DIRA to re-submit a request to the CVRD to undertake an animal control bylaw feasibility study for Denman Island and ask HIRRA for support. The Area A Director for Hornby and Denman, Daniel Arbour and one of the Denman LTC who attended that meeting also spoke in favour of the proposal.

Therefore, the Denman Island Residents Assoc. would appreciate it if HIRRA could please discuss the possibility of re-applying along with DIRA in hopes of convincing the CVRD to follow through with the promised feasibility study for Animal Control on Hornby and Denman.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully, Jenny Balke DIRA Chair