

**MINUTES**  
**Public Meeting**  
**Denman Island Community Back Hall**  
**October 20, 2025**

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**Document History**

Status	Date	Responsibility	Note
Draft	2025-10-20	Tony Gregson	Draft for review by Chair and Secretary regarding inclusion of presentations as annexes.
Draft	2025-11-03	Tony Gregson	Distribution to members
FINAL	2025-11-10	Public Meeting	<p>Approved with the following correction to Cross Island Trail Highlights, page 4, point b:</p> <p>A private survey of the of the twenty-four property owners along East Road conducted between August 20 and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 asked to respond Yes or No to having to having the trail along East Road. Twenty-one have an unqualified Yes, with three negatives. Two of these were highly unusual circumstances, and a third favoured the CIT only on the ocean side. The survey did not ask who was willing to grant anything.</p>

**DIRA Public Meeting  
Denman Island Community Back Hall  
October 20, 2025**

**Present:** Jenny Balke (Chair); Ron Wilson (Vice-Chair); Andrew Pringle (Secretary); and Tony Gregson (director); and nineteen members.

1. **Call to order:** 7:30 PM

2. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda was approved with no additions.

3. **Approval of Previous Public Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2025, was approved with no changes.

**Due to Thanksgiving, the October meeting will be 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.**

## Committee & Liaison Reports

### Pesticide Free Committee

The Committee has been revived with three members, Jennifer Veale as Chair. The following initiatives are planned:

- Annual broom cut: Continued and extended with two cutters, possibly more. Volunteers will cut on Crown lands, and the Denman Conservancy on Conservancy lands.
- School education program on invasive species and pesticide-free eradication.
- Graffiti Fence information panel.
- Monthly column in Flagstone on pesticide-free choices for garden and property
- Sale of pesticide-free signage (butterfly sign) as a fundraiser
- Participation in the Home and Garden Tour and other events
- Public presence at Saturday Market

Earmarked 2026 budget is \$3,400; will be requesting increase to \$6,000.

### Wildlife Control – Dog Management Issue

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, CVRD CAO James Warren responded to the letter from DIRA/HIRRA of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, requesting revival of funding for a proposed feasibility study of animal control on Denman. The CVRD plan is to share the request with the executive team and develop a plan for presentation to the Electoral Area Services Committee.

ACTION: DIRA chair to check back with CVRD in one month.

## Recreation Grants: Graham Lake Swim Dock Presentation

Ian Elliot spoke about the Graham Lake Dock.

Starting in 2017, Ian, Jay Thornton, Kevin Hutton, Frank Freketich, later joined by Richard Menard, took over responsibility for the Graham Lake Dock. Built in 2007 by Jay, the dock was badly in need of replacement. The work involved complete replacement of the dock, access paths, and stairs, as well as bank landscaping for erosion control. The work was completed in June 2023 on a budget of \$35,000, ten thousand more than anticipated. Public and private fund raising was a major effort, in addition to assistance from CVRD funding through the Recreation Grant Committee as well as a Community Project Grant from Denman Works.

The improved dock is very popular. People put it on Facebook, attracting off-island users as well as residents, with up to seventy people in one day in summer. The number of users has created problems with dogs who the committee would like to restrict during the day, but apart from signage, the committee can't police the dock. Another issue is the number of boats that people store by the dock.

The project has been very successful with participation from dozens of volunteers, from construction to hauling the completed dock down to water over private property.

## Islands Trust Update

Neither of the trustees Sam Borthwick and David Graham could be present, so at his request, the Chair read out David Graham's Trustee Notebook which will be published in the upcoming issue of the Flagstone.

## Roads Committee

Joanne Shepherd spoke about the work of the newly formed committee which now has ten members. At this point, the committee is looking for public input.

- They will be at the General Store every Saturday afternoon in November from 1 to 3.
- Articles about the Road Committee have started to appear in all island papers including the Grapevine, Barnacle, and Flagstone.
- Especially looking for help with social media.
- As a teaser of how much work there is to do, only 36% of Denman's 75 kilometers of road is paved versus 92% of Hornby roads.
- Safety is a very big issue.

## Trails Committee

Tim Fuchs presented on behalf of the Trails Committee.

- Main tasks are:
    - maintaining the Cross island (CIT) Trail for the CVRD,
    - Brushing and improvement of trails in Boyle Point Park and other provincial parks in the Northlands.
  - At Boyle Point they moved the bluff trail away from the bluff edge in four locations.
  - Trails works closely with the Parks Committee to complete the CIT between Corrigall Road and Owl Crescent, but there are problems with right of way along the preferred route of East Road. As a result, Trails and Parks are waiting to learn the CVRD's position on routing and the proposed process to move forward. A meeting (assumed to be public) scheduled with the manager of CVRD Parks and Community Services (Mark Harrison) in November may provide insight.
- Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness

## Parks Committee

The Chair then read out a report from Laura Pope of the Parks Committee. (**SEE attachment to email of these minutes**).

## Emergency Preparedness Committee

There was no response from the meeting to a call for a new chair of Emergency Preparedness, though Jenny Balke did offer to chair the Committee next year.

## Public Input Forum

### Cross island Trail Highlights

Peter Spurr gave an extensive presentation on the problem of completing the CIT between Corrigall Road and Owl Crescent, preferably along East Road.

The present detour up Corrigall and along Jemima, with some sections narrowing to little better than a deer trail, does not meet by any standard the requirements of the CIT as agreed at the time of its inception, and is unacceptable in terms of safety, convenience, and quality.

- a. The problem is the lack of a road allowance the preferred route between Corrigall and Owl along East Road.

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- b. A private survey of the of the twenty-four property owners along East Road conducted between August 20 and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 asked to respond Yes or No to having to having the trail along East Road. Twenty-one have an unqualified Yes, with three negatives. Two of these were highly unusual circumstances, and a third favoured the CIT only on the ocean side. The survey did not ask who was willing to grant anything.
- c. The Ministry of Transport (MOT) has a department that deals exclusively with right-of-way issues with a great deal of expertise in such matters.
- d. The CVRD should be urged to approach MOT to resolve the problem of right-of-way.

Peter's proposal was supported by members with numerous accounts of the danger to pedestrians and cyclists along the proposed CIT section of East Road given the lack of a safe verge and the rush of ferry traffic, especially trucks.

**ACTION:** A letter from DIRA, on behalf of the Trails and Parks Committees, should be sent to the CVRD and Area A Director Daniel Arbour urging them to work with MOT on the right-of-way issues with a view to competing the CIT along East Road between Corrigall Road and Owl Crescent. The letter should emphasize the great danger to pedestrians and bicyclists along that portion of East Road, and reject, in no uncertain terms the current alternate route.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.