



Islands Trust Conservancy

Minutes of Special Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2019
Time: 1:35 pm
Location: Teleconference
Islands Trust Victoria Boardroom
200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC

Board Members Present by Teleconference: Kate-Louise Stamford, Chair
Linda Adams (joined teleconference at 1:37 pm)
Sue Ellen Fast
Doug Fenton
Robin Williams

Staff Present: Kate Emmings, Islands Trust Conservancy Acting Manager
Crystal Oberg, Communications & Fundraising Specialist
Jemma Green, Covenant Management & Outreach Specialist
Wayne Bourque, Acting Ecosystems Protection Specialist
Russ Hotsenpiller, Islands Trust CAO
Alexandra Trifonidis, Acting Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stamford called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm and acknowledged that the meeting was being held in Coast Salish First Nations territory, specifically Lekwungen and Wsanec Saanich peoples.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent, the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approved the agenda as presented.

3. BUSINESS

3.1 Items for Discussion/Direction

3.1.1 Islands Trust Conservancy strategies to address the Islands Trust climate change emergency

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) Acting Manager reviewed the purpose and background of the briefing to the Board. She also gave an overview of the six potential actions ITC could do to address the climate change crisis.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Insuring communications to Trust Council around ITC climate change activities

- Potential need for outside expertise (staff position?) to focus on climate change work
- Increasing property tax exemptions for property owners; NAPTEP
- Climate change action is the nature of ITC work already and ITC is already addressing climate change in its core work.
- Emphasizing ITC Climate Change work in communications and contact with landowners
- Focus on future land acquisition priorities; mature old growth forest, wetlands, and aquifer recharge areas
- Restoration areas – Broadening restoration to include ecosystems other than trees, i.e. coastal and wetland restoration
- Research – What species will grow better on the islands in the future? Where will ecosystems and species move to in a future climate?
- Working with First Nations and their ability to steward land
- Literature on maintaining forest ground cover; fire protection and water levels
- Great opportunity to showcase ITC work with the general public
- Document climate change impacts in the Trust Area as they occur; list of what damage is happening as well as the identified part of it
- Drought and uphill properties in terms of acquisitions and land use planning
- Connectivity of protected properties for species to be able to move and migrate
- Signage – Think of adaption and mitigation when creating new signage for covenants and Nature Reserves

ITC A/Manager provided the Board a prioritization of the potential actions to address the climate change crisis, noting that many activities are already underway and that more complex items requiring outside resources include:

- Obtain a literature review synthesizing available climate change impact information specific to the Pacific Northwest region and identifying information gaps
- Expand mapping to include:
 - Identification of movement of ecosystems and species using climate change predictions and modelling
 - Identification of areas vulnerable to climate change impacts (e.g. sea level rise, increased storm events, fire)
- Evaluate fuel loads in existing ITC protected areas and consider fuel load reduction measures (e.g. controlled burns)

ITC-2019-026

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to incorporate the climate change actions as discussed at the meeting of August 7, 2019 into staff work programs and develop budgets as required.

CARRIED

ITC-2019-027

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board request that Trust Council consider the following as it develops a climate emergency strategy for inclusion in the Strategic Plan:

- Increased budget for professional advice and mapping
- The role of the Islands Trust Conservancy in storage and sequestration of carbon within its Nature Reserves and Covenant Areas and the property management needs associated with this role
- Education about the benefits of forest cover
- Increase communications resources to promote voluntary conservation options such as NAPTEP
- Information regarding all current ITC climate change mitigation and adaptation activities

CARRIED

ITC-2019-028

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board ask Trust Council to request that the province amend legislation to increase the percentage of the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) tax exemption in order to incentivize the protection of forest cover for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Islands Trust Area.

CARRIED

4. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on October 1st at 10:00 am.

5. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm.

Kate-Louise Stamford, Chair

Certified Correct:

Alexandra Trifonidis, Recorder