



Islands Trust Conservancy Minutes of Regular Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Electronic Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present: Kate-Louise Stamford, Chair
Sue Ellen Fast, Vice Chair
Linda Adams
Donald Clarke
Doug Fenton
Susan Hannon

Staff Present: Kate Emmings, Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) Acting Manager
Julia Mobbs, Administrative Services Director
Carla Funk, Acting Communications and Fundraising Specialist
Jemma Green, Covenant Management and Outreach Specialist
Kathryn Martell, Acting Ecosystems Protection Specialist
Nuala Murphy, Property Management Specialist
Sheree Rialp, Recorder

Guests Present: Sarah Burden, Senior Manager, KPMG Enterprise
Lenora M. Lee, Audit Partner, KPMG Enterprise

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stamford called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. CLOSED MEETING

ITC-2020-006

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4, Division 3, section 90 (1) (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Islands Trust Conservancy; (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Board, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Islands Trust Conservancy if they were held in public; and that staff be invited to remain in the meeting.

CARRIED

The Islands Trust Conservancy Board convened the closed portion of the meeting at 10:05 a.m. and resumed in open meeting at 11:19 a.m. to Rise and Report. The Chair acknowledged that the meeting was being held in Coast Salish First Nations territory

4. RISE AND REPORT

The Islands Trust Conservancy Board reported on the following item:

- that the Islands Trust Conservancy rise and report that it has approved an Opportunity Fund Grant of \$5,000 to be awarded to the Denman Conservancy Association.

5. AUDIT REPORT APPROVAL

A/Manager Emmings gave a background introduction and the process involved in the audit of ITC's financial statements.

Lenora Lee presented the highlights in the Financial Statements for 2019-2020, noting that its status is complete and without any matters of significance that are outstanding.

Ms. Lee reviewed the Financial Statements and related Notes to Financial Statements. New this year, note 1(f) was added to highlight the natural assets provided by the conservancy.

There was discussion between Board members and staff on the types of investments managed by the Conservancy, how these investments are determined, and their consistency with the Islands Trust Conservancy's *Declaration of Reconciliation* and the Islands Trust's *Climate Change Emergency Declaration*.

Sarah Burden presented the *Audit Findings Report* to the Board.

ITC-2020-007

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy approve the Audited Financial Statements for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, and refer the statements to the Islands Trust Council for information.

CARRIED

Lenora Lee, Sarah Burden and Julia Mobbs left the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

6. MINUTES/COORDINATION

6.1 Minutes of Meetings/Resolutions without Meetings

6.1.1 Approval of February 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

By general consent, the Islands Trust Conservancy meeting minutes of February 13, 2020 were adopted.

6.1.2 Resolution without Meeting – April Meeting Cancellation

The Islands Trust Conservancy Board reviewed resolution number ITC-2020-005, CARRIED March 31, 2020.

It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Islands Trust Conservancy, April 7, 2020, regular scheduled business meeting be cancelled.

6.2 **Follow-up Action List**

The Follow-up Action List was received for information.

7. **BUSINESS**

7.1 **Items for Approval**

7.1.1 Vision Statement

Staff and Board members were unable to reach a consensus to move the Vision Statement forward. It was agreed that staff will bring further revisions to the Board at a future meeting. A suggestion was also noted to revisit the Vision Statement along with the Mission Statement.

7.1.2 Annual Report Text

The Board reviewed the Annual Report Text.

ITC-2020-008

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approves the attached text for inclusion in the 2019-2020 Annual Report for approval by Trust Council and submission to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

CARRIED

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:18 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:42 p.m.

7.1.3 Climate Change Projections

A/Manager Emmings clarified the amount indicated in Recommendation 2 of the Request for Decision; as she has a spending authority of \$5,000, she requested the Board endorse the \$7,392.63 spent on the Climate Change Projections report.

Specialist Martell gave a background on the findings in the *Climate Projections for Islands Trust Area* report, noting the data model review and the facilitated discussion on what the impacts of those projected changes might be.

She assessed the report to have sobering and serious projections, citing the following predictions:

- A continued trend in the seasons' temperatures, i.e., warmer summers with longer dry spells, warmer winters with more frequent and intense storms, earlier springs, and longer growing seasons with a dormant mid-period;
- Changes in precipitation patterns, not necessarily in their amounts, with more precipitation expected in the fall than in winter;
- Rising sea levels and global ocean waters experiencing increasing temperatures and acidity, and reduced oxygen levels.

Specialist Martell also gave the highlights in the *Climate Change Impacts Project Charter*, and requested Board approval of the Charter, including approval of the proposed budget of up to \$15,000.

The Board discussed feedback with staff, including:

- Indigenous Services Canada funding for climate change projects;
- the impact of climate change on local areas, such as health implications, infestations, effects on plants and wildlife, and interaction of species movement;
- Potential impacts of change that is made now on 2080 projections;
- Connections between the Conservancy's 30th Anniversary and the climate projections 30 years from now in 2050;
- The atmosphere of unity brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic that has encouraged people to look at other changes they can implement in their community, such as action to address climate change;
- Connecting residents in a local area with Conservancy followers and networks, including First Nations partners, to obtain insights, educate each other and explore solutions and opportunities together;
- The usefulness and ability of identifying the carbon sequestration value of protected lands, including monitoring, quantifying and tracking;
- Degree of cooperation with local groups in taking actions based on the results of the study; and
- Potential for expert workshops.

ITC-2020-009

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approve the Climate Change Project Charter as drafted and request that staff forward the *Climate Projections for Islands Trust Area* final report to Trust Council and Bowen Island Municipality for information.

CARRIED

ITC-2020-010

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy endorse the expenditure of \$7,392.63 for the securement of the *Climate Projections for Islands Trust Area* report.

CARRIED

7.1.4 Wildfire Risk Management in ITC Nature Reserves

Vice Chair Fast provided background about the increasing concern among island communities within the forest interface in terms of potential fire hazards and the complexities of addressing solutions from an ecological point of view.

Trustee Hannon pointed out the importance of wildfire risk management issues for ITC holdings. She noted that improper stewardship of private land could result in worsened dry conditions, and stressed the importance of understanding terms regarding wildfire risk management, e.g. forest age, and consulting with fire ecologists as against consulting with fire departments that use FireSmart, which is not tailored to the specific needs of the community.

A/Manager Emmings stated that there are no fire ecologist on the ITC staff and outside expertise is required. Conservancy staff have been liaising with Parks Canada fire ecologists and there may be some opportunities for staff training in the future.

ITC-2020-011

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to prepare a budget request for the 2021-2022 fiscal year for a report with options and recommendations for managing wildfire risks on ITC conservation properties.

CARRIED

7.1.5 Baile NAPTEP Conservation Proposal on Clam Bay Road

Specialist Martell gave a summary on the NAPTEP proposal submitted by Lisa Baile of North Pender Island; staff believe the application is consistent with NAPTEP requirements and policies.

ITC-2020-012

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approve the conservation proposal submitted by Lisa Baile to place a NAPTEP covenant on approximately 3.99 ha on Clam Bay Road, North Pender Island, PID: 024-289-582, Lot B Section 22 Pender Island Cowichan District Plan VIP 67942.

CARRIED

7.1.6 Inner Island Nature Reserve Management Plan

Specialist Murphy gave an overview and background of all three management plans (agenda items 7.1.6 – 7.1.8), noting the strong relationship between ITC and the Denman Conservancy Association. Common items in the plans included:

- Invasive species removal;
- Continued species at risk surveys and management;
- trail maintenance;
- compliance with covenant obligations, where they exist;
- looking for wardens or ‘friends of’ groups to assist with management; and,
- a focus on land management as an opportunity for First Nations reconciliation.

A number of recommendations were also mentioned, such as:

- cultural competency training for ITC property management groups and contractors;
- encouraging First Nations involvement to reflect the land treaties, where present, and inherent rights and title;
- beginning work on the management plans for areas of cultural heritage;
- climate change action;
- creating wildfire risk assessment plans that are specific to the Islands Trust areas and appropriate to nature reserves; and
- liaising with local fire departments and residents.

Specialist Murphy acknowledged that First Nations should be properly recognized in the management plans and that they are not simply ‘stakeholders’. She also noted that management groups adhere to consistent protocols when doing work on nature reserves and that ITC staff ensure consistency and frequency of work is appropriate to the management tasks.

ITC-2020-013

It was **MOVED and **SECONDED**,**

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approve the 2020 update of the Inner Island Nature Reserve Management Plan dated February 6, 2020.

CARRIED

7.1.7 Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve Management Plan

Specialist Murphy addressed questions about the Denman Cross-Island Trail and its relationship to the Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve. She noted that the Board has agreed in principle to options routing horses and bikes through the Reserve on select trails for the purpose of a Cross-Island Trail, but that in most Conservancy Nature Reserves bikes and horses are not permitted.

ITC-2020-014

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approve the 2020 update of the Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve Management Plan dated March 2, 2020.

CARRIED

7.1.8 Valens Brook Management Plan

Specialist Murphy gave a history and description of the property, noting that there are no trails in the nature reserve.

Vice Chair Fast noted that there is a local plan for a greenway along Valens Brook and Specialist Murphy confirmed that staff are aware of the greenway plan and outreach to neighbours of the Nature Reserve.

ITC-2020-015

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approve the Valens Brook Nature Reserve Management Plan dated April 9, 2020.

CARRIED

7.2 Items for Discussion/Direction

7.2.1 ITC 30th Anniversary Plans

Specialist Funk gave a background of the 30th Anniversary of the Islands Trust Conservancy, focusing on past accomplishments, looking for options and ideas on how to celebrate them, and reflecting on where the Conservancy will be 30 years into the future.

Vice Chair Fast suggested placing number 5 in the activities list of the Briefing up to number 2, to focus more on the future and on biodiversity. She noted the past 30 years saw a return of marine wildlife that signifies a positive future.

7.2.2 Contiguous Forest Mapping Project

Specialist Martell noted that the forest mapping project is a project of the Local Planning Committee. They were meant to address the project at their May meeting, but the agenda item was postponed to a future meeting. The briefing was received by the Board for information.

7.2.3 Reconciliation Retreat Update

A/Manager Emmings gave an overview of the staff reconciliation retreat on May 7, 2020 and indicated that staff will meet in the near future to continue to include actions in work plans to reflect the Conservancy's commitment to its Reconciliation Declaration.

7.2.4 EC/ITC Joint Meeting Agenda

The Islands Trust Conservancy Board received the ITC/EC annual liaison meeting draft agenda for information and input.

A/Manager Emmings briefly described the meeting agenda items.

Chair Stamford suggested adding an update on the impacts of COVID-19 to the agenda.

Vice Chair Fast stated that if anyone wants something brought up at an Executive Committee meeting, to inform her so that she can bring it forward.

7.3 **Correspondence**

7.3.1 Reply from the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The Islands Trust Conservancy Board received the correspondence from Hon. Wilkinson for information.

7.4 **Updates for Information**

7.4.1 Executive Committee Updates (verbal)

Vice Chair Fast touched briefly on COVID-19's impact on their meetings and activities.

7.4.2 Public Acquisitions Report

The Islands Trust Conservancy Board reviewed the Public Acquisitions Report for information.

7.4.3 Public Covenants Report

The Islands Trust Conservancy Board reviewed the Public Covenants Report for information.

A/Manager Emmings noted two items to be presented to the Board at the next meeting for approval: the Sandy Beach acquisition on Keats Island; and the Collins Road covenant on Salt Spring Island.

7.4.4 Budget Report

The Islands Trust Conservancy Board reviewed the Budget Report for information.

A/Manager Emmings noted that the legal budget was decreased by \$7,000 from last year and she is expecting to overspend on legal services in this fiscal year, but will work with Administrative Services Director, Julia Mobbs, to address this financial need. She also mentioned the late reductions to travel budgets made by Trust Council to decrease the tax burden on islanders, in relation to COVID-19.

7.4.5 COVID-19 Updates (verbal)

A/Manager Emmings mentioned highlights of the updates since the outbreak of COVID-19:

- Staff were moved to work by remote from home, but adjusted quickly due to the support of the Information Systems staff.
- Workload has not decreased and staff are working at capacity.
- Due to travel restrictions, the annual monitoring program for the covenants and nature reserves was put on hold; restrictions may be eased in the near future, and Specialist Green is currently drafting procedures in line with Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry's worksafe protocols and regulations.
- Staff have been monitoring use of nature reserves with help of partners. No significant concerns have been raised. Some nature reserves have been signed to address issues.
- A COVID-19 button was added to the ITC homepage.
- Staff is getting used to conducting Zoom meetings and were able to coordinate the Conservancy's first electronic public meeting.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Stamford expressed her appreciation to ITC staff for their professionalism and effort to significantly advance the work of the ITC during the stressful challenges brought on by the COVID-19 virus and the provincial mitigation response.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business presented.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on July 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Kate-Louise Stamford, Chair

Certified Correct:

Sheree Rialp, Recorder