

## **Overview of Bylaw Enforcement Meeting (Derek Masselink)**

Last week Islands Trust trustees, the CRD Director, CRD Bylaw Enforcement officials, Fire Chief Charlie Boyte and Sargeant Rod Pick all met informally to discuss bylaws and enforcement.

The session was very helpful and underscored the need for more opportunities to connect and share our experiences so that we can improve the way we serve our community.

The conversation was wide-ranging and gave us an opportunity to get a better understanding of each of our agency's responsibilities and some of the challenges that we face. Over the course of the 2 hour conversation a number of items began to emerge that would benefit from our collective attention - they seem to be opportunities to improve and learn together.

During the session I kept a rough list of these opportunities, which are listed in no particular order.

- Unlawful or unconventional housing - do we have an ability to make some allowances for this?  
CRD/Islands Trust
- Short-Term Vacation Rentals - need for accountability and clarity around rules - who's responsible or has the capacity for enforcement?
- Noise Bylaw is hard to interpret  
Sharing information and statistics - Each agency is apparently keeping their own stats. Is there an opportunity to collate this and share with each other as well as the community?
- Education - lack of public understanding of rules and regulation - how might we work together to improve the current situation
- Complaint-driven approach - Appears that there is a difference between agencies on how this delivered. Difficult in a small community as complainants concerned about "blow-back" Is there a way for us to be a bit more proactive and fair - especially in areas that are under scrutiny (i.e. waste, housing)
- Consistency - need for an assessment of current situation e.g a white paper. How are complaints exactly handled by each agency?
- Lack of resources - This may be determining our responsiveness and our ability to get compliance. Is there a way to share resources, expertise and knowledge? What additional resources and skills are needed?
- Need for a greater presence of bylaw enforcement on island - to attend to problems but also to improve understanding and awareness (for all parties - enforcement and regulators included) and for compliance
- Protocol Agreements - what are in place? Do they need to be updated? Do we need additional protocols?

- Potential for alternative or restorative approaches. There are often deeper issues that underlie infractions. How do we effectively attend to these issues?

All agreed that this was time well spent and that we would benefit from another collective check in and conversation perhaps this fall. In the meantime we could begin to start working on this list.