

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TOWN HALL MEETING
MARCH 21, 2015**

Brian Crumblehulme, Advisory Chair for the Economic Development Commission (EDC) for Mayne Island, opened the meeting and outlined the format for the evening. He spoke to the collaboration of Islands Trust and CRD to advance community interests. B. Crumblehulme extended a welcome to David Howe (CRD Director SGI) and introduced Ian Dow, Commissioner for the EDC.

Commissioner Dow stated that there had recently been a meeting of the EDC Commissioners to identify the benefits of consolidating the CRD and community services. It is felt that such consolidation could lower operating budgets and make better use of tax dollars.

The following reports on community initiatives were presented:

Mayne Island Pathways and Trails: Irene Barrett

Objective is to promote development of pathways and trails on the island.

A pathway is on road allowance while a trail provides egress to off road environments.

There is concern regarding cyclists and walkers as to safety due to narrow roads and shoulder conditions.

Three primary routes identified: Village Bay/Miners Bay, Miners Bay/Bennett Bay and Miners Bay/Horton Bay.

Primary focus is currently on Village Bay/Miners Bay route with the expectation that a pathway allowing people to cycle and walk safely from ferry terminal would increase tourism and in turn have an economic benefit.

This is a pilot project with funds from CRD, Lions Club and various donors.

A land survey has been completed of the proposed route.

Fallow Deer: Jeanine Dodds

This ongoing issue is now being addressed by the Ministry of Lands and Forests and the community with efforts being made to eradicate this invasive species.

A Grant in Aid has been received from the CRD to offset permit hunters costs.

Lobbying is ongoing to include the Ministry of Agriculture in this long term process.

Food and Agriculture: Heather Dow

A CRD Economic Development Initiative the objectives are to support local food and agriculture as an important part of the SCI economy, to increase public knowledge of local food production and to support long term resiliency of island communities.

Some important points identified at eh Community Engagement Workshop are:

- Awareness of locally grown products
- Recognition and support of hard work and effort by growers and farmers
- New types of crops suited to soil, climate and water needs
- Home gardens, preserving and seed saving creating food security
- Small consumer base

Check website GrowingIslands.com for more information.

Festival Active Pass: Stephen Cropper

April 17 – 19, 2015

Community engagement has been encouraging.

Next year Galiano will direct the activities.

Activities include field excursions, art exhibits, workshops and a food fair.

Information available at info@festivalactivepass.com

Miners Bay Herring Project: Ian Dow

Area has been identified as an extensive eel grass district which in turn is a feeding ground for herring.

330 ft. of spawning material has been installed on Miners Bay Dock.

Increased herring supply would benefit birds and fish as feed stock.

Recycling: Ann Johnston

Has been a difficult time with threats of reduced funding.

Through efforts of the CRD Director and lobbying by the recycling groups funding has been guaranteed for the next 4 years through the CRD.

Kitchen Scraps: Bob McKinnon

Mayne Island Improvement District is responsible to ensure garbage collection and management which to date has been handled through a private collector.

Food scraps no longer allowed in landfill.

MIID is looking at models as to how to handle this issue and will be monitoring the situation.

Broadband: Siegfried Luft

An initiative of the Commission is to get better internet access for all the islands.

Work is ongoing with Network BC and Beacon Wireless (Siegfried's company) to improve service.

Application has been made for a Connecting Canadians Grant (supported by the CRD, BC government and Van City).

Plan is to expand footprint and improve infrastructure, speed up links and accelerate growth of coverage, capacity, stability and support staff.

Docks and Transit:

1. Docks: Carl Bunnin, Commissioner, Chair, Southern Gulf Islands

Harbours Commission

SGI Harbours Commission is responsible for 11 docks throughout the six islands of the SGI.

A recent survey shows Mayne Island to have one fifth the public dock space per capita for the six islands.

Existing Horton Bay dock at risk of being lost due to ongoing legal challenge with Upland property owner.

Issues being examined include economic impact of inadequate marine facilities on Mayne Island, environmental benefits, safety, emergency evacuation and access, transportation to and from neighbouring islands.

Commission has approved a budget and rezoning application for construction of a public dock at the Anson Road water lease.

Miners Bay Dock will have an engineering inspection this year with repairs and improvements to follow.

2. Community Bus: Alan Guy/Richard DeArmand

An ongoing task is to access grant monies for operation costs.

For 2014 costs were \$7,500 with 1,500 riders over 1,500 km.

3. Water Taxis and Money: Ian Dow

Transportation between islands is a missing link.

Important to identify efficiencies and how to save dollars and one concept is to integrate services eg. Commissions

David Howe: SGI Director, CRD

It is a balancing act to manage island economic needs with mandate to “preserve and protect”.

Spoke to the initiative Experience The Gulf Islands Trails.

Expressed appreciation to Islands Trust Trustees and the increased co-operation between Islands Trust and the CRD.

Brian Crumblehulme thanked the presenters and attendees.

