

BOWEN ISLAND CONSERVANCY
DRAFT Minutes, Annual General Meeting
27 November 2021
1:00 to 3:00 pm

Venue: via GoogleMeet

Chair: Owen Plowman

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Announcements and welcome

- Reminder about annual membership (\$10 for individual and \$15 for family);
- Easy to e-transfer or send cheque
- Sue Ellen report on Heron Watch – chicks hatched this year, continuity continued

Business portion of Meeting

Agenda and 2020 AGM Minutes approved by consensus

Report from the Chair

See slides from Owen Plowman

Nature Reserves: Singing Woods and Fairy Fen

BIC was contracted by Island Trust Conservancy to carry out the monitoring (because of restrictions re. travel as a result of COVID) – in March, did Fairy Fen (FF), Singing Woods (SW) and David Otter (DO) Reserves – all good.

Fairy Fen: two problems:

1. Crossing of Huszar Creek just outside the Fen, and
2. An extremely boggy part of trail

We are grateful to Everhard van Lidth de Jeude who supervised construction of bridge with volunteers, and rerouted trail around the bog; people had thrown material into Huszar Creek. In March, Everhard built the bridge and moved a lot of soil to make ramps; removed logs from creek

Herring Fishery

John Rich, Bob Turner, and Ellen Coburn remain active monitoring what is going on – writing letters to DFO

Early November, John sent one, on behalf of BIC, asking for a moratorium in Georgia Strait – so far, no reply.

Mt. Gardner and motorized vehicles

Wrote to Minister responsible and stated no motorized use – the claim that only a minority wanting no motorized use is just not true – claims that Trail Riders are only ones who maintain trails again not true – as of yesterday, Nov 26, asked to participate in the decision-making process

Currently only 3 groups, Horseriders Association, Trails Society and Trail Riders Association – Conservancy is asking BIM for a seat at table.

Bio-diversity Project

Chantal Underdown launched this 3 years ago – can load up photos of animals and plants – set up to capture much of island as possible.

This summer launched a project within a project to see how many species we could identify in one summer; by knowing about things that live here, we have a better chance that they may survive and we can find ways to preserve habitat.

Set a goal of 1,000 uploads – by end of Sept. there were 1300 uploads. So far, 11,044 observations. Promoted on FB page too. Lots of islanders following the project. Initiated on our side by Louise Loik. Kudos to both Chantal and Louise.

Marine Atlas

Now in our third printing

May be purchased for \$30 at Phoenix or Hearth gallery. Bob Turner, Len Gilday, and Will Husby working on phase 2 – website publication – stories being put together on Mannion Bay; will be on our website or a separate website; we have funding for this.

Cape Conservancy Lands

June 16 - we hosted a visit to the lands for Mayor and Council. BIM Covenant placed on the lands and BIM granted us a tax exemption – paid \$48,000 in tax last June so we need the permissive tax exemption as well as reduction in land value by BC Assessment as a result of covenant..

Thank you very much to Council for their support!

Bob Turner Report on the Conservancy Lands

Short update on our lands. These lands have revolutionized and energized our Conservancy in a remarkable way. A huge thank you to our generous donors. Their gift will allow our community to link with nature in a permanent way.

Lands purchased in December 2020. Coming up to first anniversary. Invitation to public to stay on driveways and landing pads as we were doing an assessment of the fragile ecosystem on the property. Since then, in an assessment phase. Establishing policies and plans at the board level – shifting now to an

operational phase – Board endorsed a plan going forward, creating trails, signage – opening formally in spring 2022.

First step – recruited some talent, some professional biologists, horticulturists, formed a Technical Advisory Group to provide science-based advice. Decided we needed a full inventory – hired Claudia Schaefer who provided us with a detailed evidence-based report – Terri Taylor had provided a report 15 years ago describing property as a “botanical gem”. Claudia has described this as a “living museum.” We have to steward these lands recognizing how delicate and fragile the lands are.

We asked Claudia to provide a second report – ways to experience the lands while minimizing any environmental damage – map showing trail loop – need to maintain a space for nature to do its thing, so we are setting aside the western side of the lands for no public access. Have decided to prohibit public access on the seashore – hopefully will be able to stand on viewpoint and see an otter on shore, perhaps a heron stalking fish; an eagle fishing – can watch them but not disturb them.

There is natural regeneration going on the housing pads – we have invasive species to manage.

Owen mentioned land covenant and tax exempt status – recognize the generosity of time from BIM staff to assist with this.

Already done bat monitoring – 5 or 6 bat species; we will erect wildlife cameras; we know we have a wildcat – not sure if a bobcat or a big feral Tom?

Naming process for lands – just designing now

Educational initiatives – we want to engage the island community to experience the opportunities on these lands.

Outlook for 2022

May have an in-person speaker session this coming year; will have to wait and see; herring fishery advocacy and Mt. Gardner trail issue will continue; will explore the potential for additional land acquisition; some things we are interested in; not a large donor but some things we are interested in.

Financial Report (attached)

Election of Board members

Directors whose term is up have agreed to carry on. Leo Chan has decided to resign. Big thank you for Leo’s time and dedication to the Board.

Full Board is as follows:

- Ellen Coburn
- Allie Drake
- Paula Hay (Treasurer)
- Louise Loik
- Owen Plowman (President)
- Nerys Poole (Secretary)
- John Rich
- Bob Turner
- Peter Williamson

Questions/Comments

Sue Ellen – interested in knowing what species we do not have on the island; please let her know if you are aware of these.

Owen - Metro Vancouver interest in additional lands at the Cape

Potential to acquire everything that has not already been sold; heard this from someone on island and Candy Ho informed Owen that MV is interested; will be a very long process; we are not involved unless someone requests us to be involved; could mean that the continuing lots past our lot 22 at Huszar Creek Lane, would all become a park/nature reserve;

The formal business portion of the meeting concluded at 1:42 pm

BREAK for 10 minutes at 1:42 pm

Presentation

Ruth Simons presentation on Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bowen Island Conservancy
Nerys Poole, Secretary