

**Venue:** Bowen Island Community School, Multi-purpose room

**Chair:** Owen Plowman

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

### **Announcements**

Owen: Welcome to all!

- Reminder about annual membership (\$10 for individual and \$15 for family). Can e-transfer or send cheque; details are in the reminder email.
- Grateful to Knick Knack Nook – \$1,266 given to us
- It's the time of year for charitable donations: please think of the Conservancy. We have more expenses than ever before: property taxes, insurance, advertising costs (total adds up to about \$13,000). On top of that are expenses at the Wild Coast Nature Refuge.
- Previously we had two categories of members: lifetime and annual. We are now asking all lifetime members to switch from lifetime to annual. E-transfers may be used for donations or memberships. The Conservancy issues a tax receipt for any donation over \$20. Reasons for changing to annual membership fees: we need a predictable contribution since our expenses are increasing, and we also think a positive affirmation of support (i.e. annual membership) creates more engagement in what we are doing.
- Mentioned the two donation and membership gift cards available at the craft fair on Dec.4
- We will be asking for approval of a special resolution (75% vote needed).

### **Approval of Agenda**

Bill Granger moved, seconded by Alison Morse. Approved unanimously.

### **Approval of 2021 AGM Minutes**

Tamsin Miley moved, seconded by Charles McNeill. Approved unanimously.

### **Report from the Chair**

#### **Nature Reserves – Singing Woods and Fairy Fen**

- Last winter trees fell and blocked trail in Singing Woods: all cleared out now
- Fairy Fen – concerned about dirt bikes but haven't been any in last while – nothing more to report.

### **Herring Fishery**

- Last year we mentioned we had written to DFO Minister about a moratorium: we requested a substantial reduction in the fishery. We received a reply (addressed to Hornby Island Conservancy!). It didn't say much. The fishery has been a disaster. We will continue to raise public awareness about this.
- Bob Turner: there was a reduction (½ the quota) but shifted part of it to a different fishery – concern that the conservation effort that was hoped for may now be transferred to a more problematic fishery.

### **Mt. Gardner and motorized vehicles**

- There were historically three groups that set themselves up as being responsible for Mt. Gardner trails: Trail Riders Association (dirt bike and ATV access wanted), Trail Society and the Horse and Riders Association.
- Conservancy position: leave Mt. Gardner in peace and do not interfere with Mt. Gardner. We wrote to Minister of Forests and reiterated points made in 2021.
- Lots of conversations with different groups: North Shore Hikers do not want to be involved.
- Ministry of Forests held a workshop on June 1, with a number of groups present. At end of workshop, it seemed to be set up to have the outcome to allow for some motorized access. Council voted to say no to motorized access on Mt. G. We made a note to revisit the issue with Council and to bring up their original resolution – sometime soon, we will be writing a letter to Council to ask them to repeat the position. Ministry has put the process on hold – but this means that everyone is still riding their dirt bikes up there.

### **Marine Atlas**

- \$30: a great Christmas present! In its third printing – about 30 copies left – available at Phoenix and The Hearth. Launch of Phase 2 – all about Deep Bay. Will be on our Conservancy website soon – will allow access to more detail in the Deep Bay area. Accommodates All devices so you will be able to look at it on your phone. Will be up and running in 2 to 3 weeks.

### **Discovery Guide Booklet**

- Louise did all the work. \$20 each – can sell on line and will be available at Phoenix and The Hearth and at Craft Fair. \$30,000 provided to this initiative from Willowbrook Foundation; we are very grateful.

### **Wild Coast Nature Refuge**

- Presentation on this in a few minutes – bought land in October of 2020 and opened on May 29 of 2022 – we wanted to do an

- ecological assessment and determine where the trails might be – have to proceed through four seasons – long time to do all this
- Trying to keep a light footprint (photo of signs) – top sign required for insurance coverage – lower sign says no dogs, no bikes, no camping, no fires
  - We have cameras in the WCNR to assess the wildlife – may catch some people with dogs or dirt bikes.

### **Additional lands and the Ecological Gifts Program**

- We are working to acquire additional land on the island for conservation purposes
- Alan Whitehead has agreed to assist with this and do assessments for us – grateful for his contribution. Some may be an outright purchase; others may be an ecological gift – which allows for capital gains tax to be waived – we have applied to be an eco gift recipient. They agreed but we need to change the dissolution clause – we need to approve this change, as we are already in the list as the federal program agreed as long as we commit to make this change.
- We need a coherent framework to assess the merits of a proposal that may come to us. There is no current conservation strategy for Bowen Island. The Technical Advisory Group is taking this on to assist our focus on this.

### **Metro Vancouver's Proposed Regional Park**

- They are proposing to acquire a large number of lots at the Cape – they want campsites out there which is raising some controversy. Owen met with two representatives of MVP: Land acquisition planner and landscape planner. Owen had a walkabout with them at the Cape – there is no plan yet; they are deciding how to build the plan. They are aware of the traffic issue on Whitesails Drive. MVP is working with Crown to try and acquire the land up to Fairy Fen. Owen wrote a letter, circulated to membership, outlining four areas of concern: water, camping on bluff, fire hazard, transportation. We also proposed making lot 23 part of the WCNR which would allow the nature refuge to extend along the coast to Huszar Creek. MVP is somewhat receptive; haven't rejected it. Owen had to send letter again as they hadn't received it due to an email mess-up.
- Expects there will be an ongoing dialogue re. plans for the area. Conservancy very concerned about camping – they want one of the water lots to have camping on the bluffs – we think this is a mistake as it will destroy the vegetation on the bluffs.

### **Outlook for 2023**

- Additional work in the WCNR
- Ongoing dialogue with MVP
- Marine Atlas Phase 2 (website)
- Additional land acquisition

- Herring fishery
- Mt. Gardner issue

**Special Resolution: Dissolution Clause**

**Current wording of the Dissolution Clause:**

*Part 14 — Dissolution*

*64. In the event of the dissolution of the society, the assets of the society remaining after the satisfaction of its debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such organization or organizations undertaking the same or similar purposes as this society at the time of dissolution provided that such organization is a registered charity recognized by Revenue Canada and qualifies as such under the provisions of the Income Tax Act of Canada, any amendments thereto, or its successor legislation. This provision was previously unalterable.*

**Resolution and proposed wording:**

- Resolution: To amend the Dissolution Clause (article 64) of the Bowen Island Conservancy bylaws, to read:

*Part 14 — Dissolution*

*64. In the event of the dissolution of the society, the assets of the society remaining after the satisfaction of its debts and liabilities shall be either given or transferred to such organization or organizations undertaking the same or similar purposes as this society at the time of dissolution provided that such organization is a registered charity recognized by Revenue Canada and qualifies as such under the provisions of the Income Tax Act of Canada, any amendments thereto, or its successor legislation, or, in the case of ecological gifts, to one or more eligible Ecological Gifts Program charities. This provision was previously unalterable.*

Motion to approve: Joyce moved; Holly Cleator second. All approved to change the clause as set out.

**Financial Statements**

Unaudited statements received yesterday in final form.

We are looking at writing down the value of the lands as right now it artificially inflates our assets. (lower value as a result of covenants)

Directors will approve the financial statement at our meeting in January.

**Directors**

- Ellen Coburn
- Allie Drake
- Joyce Ganong
- Jennifer Hall
- Paula Hay (Treasurer)
- Louise Loik
- Owen Plowman (President)

- Nerys Poole (Secretary)
- John Rich
- Bob Turner
- Peter Williamson

3 times – any nominees from floor? – None

Joyce Ganong and Jennifer Hall nominated and approved as additional Directors.

Ellen, Paula and Owen (terms over so need to be renewed) - nominated and approved.

**The formal business portion of the meeting concluded at 2:00**

**Ten minute break**

**Presentations**

- **Bob Turner's Video** - on initial thoughts when acquiring the WCNR
- **Mark Edmonds Presentation on the WCNR** – what we have been doing.

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bowen Island Conservancy  
Nerys Poole, Secretary