

# BOWEN ISLAND CONSERVANCY

## Minutes, Annual General Meeting

### 03 December 2011

**Venue:** the meeting was held in the Multipurpose Room of the Bowen Island Community School, 1041 Mount Gardiner Road.

Membership fees were paid by all new members. Total voting memberships present: 15.

The meeting was chaired by Owen Plowman, Secretary, standing in for Peter Drake, President (who was unfortunately feeling under the weather). Owen welcomed all attendees and outlined the agenda items to be covered.

The meeting was called to order at 10:19 am.

Owen Plowman presented a set of slides put together by Peter Drake, which reminded the membership of the natural beauty of Bowen Island, and the need to prevent abuse of the land by dirt bikes and ATVs.

1. **Approval of AGM Agenda**      The 2011 AGM Agenda was approved. Moved by Ellen Coburn (Alan Whitehead). Carried
2. **Approval of Minutes/2010 AGM**      Minutes of the 2010 AGM were accepted. Moved by Will Husby (André Chollat). Carried
3. **Report from the Chair**      Activities undertaken, completed, and on-going in the past twelve months:  
**Fairy Fen Nature Reserve:**
  - Alan Whitehead developed a Management Plan for the Fen in the first half of 2011: this document describes the ecological significance of the area, as well as detailing the diversity of wildlife and plants. The Management Plan also proposes a set of actions that should be undertaken in order to protect and preserve the Reserve.
  - Owen Plowman congratulated Alan Whitehead on the thoroughness of the Management Plan, and pointed out that it is [available for review](#) on the Conservancy's website.
  - The Islands Trust Fund (ITF) approved the Management Plan in November 2011. As a result, the Conservancy is now able to sign a Management Agreement with the ITF. This will make the Conservancy the local management authority for Fairy Fen, and will enable us to take on some of the action items outlined in the Management Plan in 2012.
  - In November, Alan Whitehead accompanied two researchers to the Fen, for field work related to core sampling of the peat, focusing in particular on sphagnum moss.**Mission Statement review:**
  - Several Board members discussed possible changes to our Mission Statement in early 2011, and produced a revised Vision, Mission, and set of Goals. These were then approved

by the entire Board, and are now present on our website under the "About Us" menu link.

**Conservation Covenants project:**

- With the research methodology in place, we propose to work with the Municipality on capturing the information about Cape Roger Curtis, as a proof-of-concept initial project.

**NAPTEP:**

- Nerys Poole provided an update on this program (the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program). This Program is available to residents of other Gulf Islands, and Council has agreed in principle to bring it to Bowen Island.
- Currently, legislation has to be changed to include island municipalities in the Program.
- The Islands Trust Find must next discuss the Program with Metro Vancouver, and then an agreement will be drafted that will enable Council to approve NAPTEP covenants.
- Some concern has been raised in the community about the impact on our taxes, but this impact is spread over the entire tax base and is not expected to be significant.
- Nerys suggested that writing letters to Council in support of NAPTEP would be helpful, and stated that she will remain involved in this initiative's progress.

**Website:**

- The Conservancy's website was updated and given a new look early in 2011. The current design is intended to be an interim step to a more image-oriented layout, with many more photos of the Island available to website visitors.
- This Fall the website has been updated with material from the Cape Roger Curtis Trust Society's website, since this will no longer be available after the end of 2011.

**Education:**

- In May 2011, the Conservancy co-sponsored two events with other organizations:
  1. The presentation "*Herring bring new life to Howe Sound*" with the Bowen Island Fish & Wildlife Club, and the Squamish Streamkeepers;
  2. A "*Watershed Quest*" family outing with Bowen Nature Club.

**Singing Woods restoration project:**

- Everhard van Lidth de Jeude obtained funding from the Islands Trust Find for a restoration project in Singing Woods. The project involved planting about 100 trees in the Reserve, and protecting them with staked wire cages.
- A second phase of this project is expected in 2012.

**Work party at Bob's Knob:**

- In November, a work party carried out clearing of trees at Bob's Knob.
- Further work is needed in 2012 at this site.

**Bowfest:**

- The Conservancy was present with a tent/booth at Bowfest, and engaged many members of the public with information about ongoing activities, and, in particular, Fairy Fen.

**4. Financial report**

Everhard van Lidth de Jeude (Treasurer) provided the Financial Report. Sue Ellen Fast (Anne Chollat) moved to accept the Financial Report. Carried

**5. Directors**

**Ratification of Directors appointed during 2010:**

One new Director was appointed by the Board in 2011:

- Rob Dufty (replacing Wynn Neilsen who resigned early in the year).

Rob's interim tenure on the Board ended as of the AGM, and because of other commitments, he did not wish to continue as a Director.

**Directors at mid-term:**

The following directors are at the mid point of their two-year terms:

- Ellen Coburn
- Peter Drake, President
- Andrea Kaufman
- Laura Koch
- Owen Plowman, Secretary
- Adrian van Lidth de Jeude
- Alan Whitehead

**Nominations from the floor:**

Peter Drake called for nominations from the floor for Directors. Up to two positions are available. No new nominations were forthcoming.

**Election of new and returning Directors:**

Everhard van Lidth de Jeude and Josephine Riley have completed their two year terms. Everhard indicated willingness to continue for a further two year term. Josephine wished to resign from the Board as of the AGM.

Two nominations were made prior to the AGM, by the Board:

- Nerys Poole
- Dave Witty

New and returning Directors were elected by acclamation.

**Summary: Conservancy Board of Directors:**

- Ellen Coburn
- Peter Drake, President
- Andrea Kaufman

- Laura Koch
- Owen Plowman, Secretary
- Nerys Poole
- Adrian van Lidth de Jeude
- Everhard van Lidth de Jeude, Treasurer
- Dave Witty
- Alan Whitehead

Sue Ellen Fast (Will Husby) moved to thank the outgoing Directors for their services to the Conservancy. Carried.

Peter Drake pointed out that Josephine Riley had a prior commitment and was, unfortunately, unable to be present at the AGM; otherwise he would have formally thanked her on behalf of the membership for her services.

**6. Proposed change to Membership Fees**

Owen Plowman noted that the current membership fee, which provides for a lifetime membership, does not provide income to the Conservancy for yearly operational expenses such as postage and domain registration. The Board therefore proposed to change the membership fee policy.

Owen Plowman (Sue Ellen Fast) proposed the following motion:

*“As of the 2011 Annual General Meeting, membership in the Bowen Island Conservancy will be based on an annual fee of \$10 for an individual membership, and \$15 for a family membership, for new memberships. Existing members will continue to hold lifetime memberships.”*

The motion was carried.

Will Husby noted that he and Sue Ellen Fast intended to terminate their lifetime family membership and reinstate membership on an annual basis. Owen Plowman noted that he intended to do the same thing.

**7. Proposed change concerning Notices to Members (special resolution)**

Owen Plowman explained the rationale for the proposed amendment to the existing Bylaw concerning Notices to Members. It will allow for email communications, in order to reduce costs and provide more timely communications. Members who do not possess an email address, or who prefer not to be contacted via email, will continue to receive hardcopy notices in accordance with current practice.

Owen Plowman (Ellen Coburn) proposed the following motion:

*“To add the underlined wording shown below to the existing Bylaw “Part 11 — Notices to Members”, as follows:*

*58. A notice may be given to a member, either personally or by mail to the member at the member's registered address or by email to the member at the member's valid email address.*

*59. A notice sent by mail is deemed to have been given on the second day following the day on which the notice is posted, and in proving that notice has been given, it is sufficient to prove the notice was properly addressed and put in a Canadian post office*

receptacle. A notice sent by email is deemed to have been given on the same day on which the notice is sent, and in proving that notice has been given it is sufficient to prove the notice was properly addressed to the member's valid email address."

In accordance with the BC Society Act, under which the Bowen Island Conservancy is incorporated, the motion constitutes a 'special resolution' (Society Act Part 12, paragraph 62), which must be approved by the BC Registrar of Companies.

The motion was carried unanimously.

## 8. Plans for 2012

Owen Plowman listed the initiatives that the Board intends to pursue in the coming year. These include:

- **Fairy Fen:** Once the Management Agreement is signed with the Islands Trust Fund, there will be a need for assistance with trails, boardwalks, signage, fund raising, and restoration of the area.
- **Singing Woods:** Everhard van Lidth de Jeude has obtained funding from the Islands Trust Fund for continuing the restoration project and this will conclude in early 2012. As well, a new Management Agreement will be signed with the Islands Trust Fund.
- **Post National Park reserve issues:** To be determined by the Board.
- **Land Stewardship certification program:** The idea for this program came from Doug Hooper, who discussed it with Owen Plowman at Bowfest. The program is aimed at making the Conservancy relevant to more Island residents. Conceptually, it seeks to raise the level of ecological integrity of private lands, by (1) establishing a group of land owners that agree to manage their properties (or some portion) according to sound conservation principles; (2) assisting land owners with restoration activities that increase the ecological health (biodiversity) of their properties; (3) pro-actively engaging with new island residents or land owners concerning the importance of conservation and ecological integrity on Bowen Island. Details of the plan are still to be worked out, but rollout is planned for 2012.
- **Education activities:** We will continue to sponsor or co-sponsor suitable activities throughout the year.
- **Other issues:**
  1. Dave Witty suggested that the Conservancy take on a more formal role in connection with the OCP, perhaps monitoring activities and working with the Municipality.
  2. Jack Little asked about monitoring of the Cape Roger Curtis lands. Alan Whitehead noted that the land owners have engaged an independent monitoring organization.
  3. Edna Thomson and Pam Dicer discussed activities that the Conservancy might take on with respect to birds. It was agreed to pursue this discussion offline.

4. Wes Magee noted that in 2011 a conflict appeared to arise between property rights and proposed bylaws. More balance should be achieved in this area. It was agreed that the Board would consider this issue in more depth.

**9. Other business**

None.

At 11:18 am the formal business portion of the meeting concluded. It was followed by the speakers from the Camosun Bog Restoration Project: Laurence Brown and Gerry Mignault, who spoke on "*Bogs, Fens and Crazy Boggers*".

At 12:08 pm the meeting was adjourned; moved by Ellen Coburn (Owen Plowman).

Respectfully submitted,

Bowen Island Conservancy  
Owen Plowman, Secretary