

BOWEN ISLAND CONSERVANCY

DRAFT Minutes, Annual General Meeting

25 November 2023

1:00 to 3:00 pm

Venue: Bowen Island Community School, Multi Purpose Room

Chair: Owen Plowman

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

Announcements from Chair: WELCOME ALL

- Reminder about annual membership (\$10 for individual and \$15 for family - can e transfer or send cheque – email (banking@bowenislandconservancy.org) Memberships good until end of year; in February we will stop reminding about renewals
- Thank you to Directors
- Voting - you must be a member to vote
- Time of year for charitable donations – please think of Conservancy.
- Thank you to Bowen Island Garden Club - Art in the Garden fund raiser raised \$6,000 for the Conservancy. Will do it again in 2024; another organization will receive the funds as a donation; will be in Owen and Doug's garden
- Minutes on website
- Next year, Owen will provide a handout to all about activities carried out in 2024: the list is long and getting longer so the Report will be condensed to focus on highlights.

Announcements

Formal business meeting: Agenda

- Approval of the AGM Agenda
- Approval of 2022 AGM minutes
- Report to the members
- Financial report
- Directors
- Other Business

Formal business meeting

- **Agenda:** approved
- **2022 Minutes:** approved
- **Report to members:**
 - Nature Reserves: Fairy Fen and Singing Woods
 - Herring Fishery
 - Publications: Marine Atlas and Discovery Guide Update
 - Discovering Kwilakm website launch
 - Howe Sound Conservation meetings
 - MOU with BI municipality
 - Update on Ecogift program
 - Update on WCNR
 - Biodiversity initiative (covered by Bob Turner)
 - Endowment established
 - Metro Vancouver and the Proposed Regional Park

Nature Reserves: Fairy Fen and Singing Woods

- Requested funding to put up a sign at entrance to Singing Woods
- Collaborative work with Island Trust Conservancy on invasive species

Herring Fishery

- Bob Turner (Herring Fishery Committee): we don't support the herring roe fishery; losing diversity in the herring stocks around the Strait of Georgia; DFO does not acknowledge this in their planning; evidence suggests there should be a moratorium on the fishery; we continue to liaise with others in the Salish Sea on this issue

Publications

- Marine Atlas \$30 - 3rd printing; sell off the island as well; thinking of follow-ups
- Discovery guide \$20 - follow-up to this booklet coming (Louise)

Discovering Kwilakm website launch

- Launched in March; over 90 attended; want to pump it up a bit; had a meeting about this and have some ideas to get more visitors to website

Howe Sound Conservation meetings

- Network of organizations around Howe Sound - opportunity to exchange information and ideas

MOU with BIM

- Have collaborated in past on some subdivision questions; Liam Edwards very helpful in putting this MOU together; and a big thank you to Council for agreeing to sign; collaboration is ongoing
- Focus on:
 1. Collaboration around conservation covenants
 2. Collaboration on developing/managing conservation lands
 3. Property tax exemptions, when appropriate
 4. Collaboration on stewardship of Municipal Park lands and island trail networks
 5. Collaboration around subdivision and rezoning applications
 6. Support for a strategic conservation assessment of Bowen Island

Ecogift program

- Tax benefits for persons who donate land for conservation purposes - changed Bylaws/dissolution clause at our last AGM, and have been accepted into the program; also willing to give tax receipts for conservation covenants
- Currently working on an Ecogift - waiting for confirmation from Ottawa

Land Trust Activities

- Had a referral from BIM for a piece of land on south coast of island; another on west coast
- Attended Land Trust Alliance BC Conference in Victoria on Nov.6-8, 2023 - received bursary to attend

Wild Coast Nature Refuge

- Grateful to BIM Council for property tax relief; lot of activity; Mark Edmonds is our lead operations guy plus the Technical Advisory Group that does species monitoring, etc.
- Bowen Island Trail Riders do not condone the incidents of bike riders on the refuge.

- Still people with dogs. Wildlife cameras are not for spying; they are there to monitor wildlife; lot of debate about no dogs policy when Board approved it; dogs are a problem for rest of nature.
- Boot brush at main entrance to provide protection against invasive seeds etc. Now a sign panel on the stand to alert visitors.
- Open House on Labour Day - good turnout.

Biodiversity Initiative

- What is the basis for making decisions about land on the island?
- We have no coherent framework for evaluating merits of:
 - Land acquisition and conservation
 - Development proposals
- Bob's talk will focus on this initiative

Endowment Fund

- Cash invested and interest used to manage lands - held by the Vancouver Foundation; if we don't need the \$ we can leave it in the fund.

Metro Vancouver's proposed Regional Park

- Media wanted answers from Owen after our proposals were made public. We just told them we sent the letter to MVP - reporter went thru AGM minutes - and said we were getting \$30 million from some questionable source
- Two proposals from BIC to MVP
- No formal response to our letter - end of Oct, Owen appeared at Regional Parks committee - nothing from MVP

Outlook for 2023

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

Financial Statements - position on June 30

Directors - approved for 2024

- 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? – No, No, No

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

BREAK for 10 minutes

Presentations:

Bob Turner's Video - Wild At Home Video

- Presentation about Biodiversity Project and the working group- Bowen Biodiversity Conservation Project
- Biodiversity = Nature = diverse nature = resilient nature

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bowen Island Conservancy
Nerys Poole, Secretary