

Notes from Forum #4 – Community Stewardship
Sat June 22nd Lasqueti Community Hall

facilitator - Andrew Fall

speaker's list – Jordan Barton

notetaker – Hilary Duinker

other OCP committee members present – Colin Ewan, Shoshanah Waxman, Kathy Rogers, Nadine Simpson, Marti Wendt,

Public attending – Nikki Darwin, Jack Barrett, Dave Rogers, Laurie Bergen, Marty&Terry, Mike Compston, Michael Wood, Sue Taylor, Danika, Willy, Ross, Valeria, Kirsty, Peter Johnston, James Swartz, Camino, Vikki, Noel Washburn, Ruth, Joseph Fall, MaryEllen, Richard Smith, Reed, Robin Jacobs, Jan Darwin
(34 people total)

General Objectives - Current Objective - Section 3.4, Objective #3

To encourage and ensure that personal responsibility is exercised by owners of dogs and other domestic pets to keep them under direct control

Willy – other objectives in this section of Current OCP have been addressed as part of other forums

Sue T – What does “encourage & ensure” actually mean?

Ruth – we don't have any existing bylaw addressing way to deal with problem pets or owners (eg repeat offender dogs attacking livestock or feral sheep, livestock running loose etc.)

Dave R – SPCA/bylaw officers not useful, calling in bureaucrats to deal with these kinds of issues only makes it more difficult

Kirsty – sign at Squitty Bay & FB docks about dogs shot under wildlife act – refers to parks

Danika – needs to stay as community objectives – community encourages, maybe not possible to “ensure” - suggests “foster an enviro that encourages responsibility”

Michael W – ok to leave this obj as is. Island has managed to address issues in past w/o bringing in outside people. (ie problem dogs are shot)

Laurie B – important for people to be encouraged, also important for community to be respectful and not harrass owners without all the facts.

Marti W – include “livestock” not just “domestic pets”

Colin – agrees with Danika & Marti, calls to support neighbours, resolve issues here

Sue K – has talked with Jana about possibility of bylaw about keeping pets/livestock fenced, didn't think was possible or desirable but has shifted, could be valuable

Ruth – SPCA has lots of resources, example bylaw etc for local governments to use

Mary Ellen – helpful to community when folks post about missing dogs online

Peter – occasionally good to bring outside people in

Andrew – talking to RD folks, sentiment is that bylaw is not worth the effort and expense

Danika – 4H type club would be helpful for fostering environment that encourages....

General support to keep? With minor changes – YES (broad majority)

General Objectives - Proposed Objective 1

To encourage a supportive, healing place to live.

Marti – maybe this is more appropriate for vision statement

Noel – things that humans need for good health – clean water, social connection etc, could be useful to have in OCP

General support to add? YES, broad majority

General Objectives - Proposed Objective 2

To support sustainable, independent, alternative and affordable lifestyles.

Noel - "alternative" is vague

Danika – just is, doesn't see it as an objective

Laurie – would like to see something about "respectfully"

Hilary – this is about supporting Lasqueti being the unique place that it is, tricky to find the right words, but important to say we don't want to be like the otherside

Colin – this doc will guide local governments for decades to come, this could be really important for informing outsiders of our values etc

Kathy R – this is difficult to transform into policies

Camino – when initial meetings happened it wasn't clear that the interests collected would become OCP objectives for community discussion, some have been significantly changed through rewording to point of no longer being the originally proposed objective. too much discussion of wording instead of solutions. maybe we need a synonym guide/dictionary. discussions taking too long, could have been sent to a sub-committee to go over before bringing it back to the rest of the island

Sue K – likes it as it is and thinks it is an objective

Willy – has lived independently, communally, thinks more communal likely needed on Lasqueti rather than "independent." and does "alternative" mean alternative to my lifestyle or yours? Would like to see "sustainable," not comfortable with "alternative" or "independent"

Joseph – important to have this to inform outsiders. "alternative" is vague – maybe something like "respectful of a variety of alternative ways", "independent" can be read different ways

Nikki – wants to move along and include this in discussion of vision statement

Sho – suggests "self determined" we want to direct the governance of our island, grass roots self determination

Peter – 1973 IT 10acre minimum, we chose 10acres for "sustainable, independent living space" - water, firewood etc.

Noel - maybe "autonomous" would be appropriate.

General support to add to OCP with wording adjusted – YES, broad majority

General Objectives - Proposed Objective 5

To explore a local land trust for multiple uses, including housing services, industry, recreation and conservation

Sho – good idea, maybe not appropriate for inclusion in the OCP

Dave – likes the objective – issues with "explore" maybe "encourage"

Jack – maybe "allow"

General support to add? YES, good idea (maybe not for OCP?)

Human Resources - Proposed Objective 1

To foster education about community vision & objectives, personal safety, agreements, regulations, etc.

Noel – maybe add something about types of relations, how we want to relate with each other

Vikki – who's educating who?

Sue K -

General support to add? YES

Human Resources - Proposed Objective 2

To foster sharing of community wisdom and locally-applied solutions.

Willy – we do it, don't need to put this in OCP

Joseph – not clear this needs to be in OCP , except maybe to inform new people that this is something we are about

Kathy – some elders starting to die off, gotta start talking to them before knowledge dies out

Camino – agrees with Joseph, archives

Colin – we are a close enough community that we can solve alot of our own issues. May be redundant to us but could be really valuable to include in our OCP

Danika – what makes Lasqueti unique is the self governance. Quite universally valued. How are problems solved? How does our model actually work? Maybe it should be part of OCP to document how self governance works here

General support to add? YES

Human Resources - Proposed Objective 3

To foster a diverse age demographic, and encourage people of all ages to work and communicate together.

General support to add? YES

Human Resources - Proposed Objective 4

To ensure a positive environment for children

General support to add? YES

General Objectives - Proposed Objective 3

To ensure that the False Bay School remains in operation.

Andrew – this sounds like a policy, maybe say “elementary education opportunities”

Jordan – what about high school?

Noel – having a physical school is important, not just educational opportunities

Joseph -agrees with Noel, maybe say encourage opportunities for primary and secondary

Willy – agrees with Andrew & Joseph,

Danika – encourage educational opportunities at all ages

Marti – physical school matters

Peter – FBS is 80yrs old, agree we need a physical school, doesn't have to be FBS

Mary Ellen – school building is an important community resource, even if no kids/low enrollment

Ruth – support choice for secondary age kids whether they want to go over or not (worried if secondary offered here, might lose \$\$ to relocate)

General support to add? physical school on island, encourage educational opportunities YES

Human Resources – Proposed Objective

To provide support for elders and youth

what about middle age people? What does support mean?

Allow/support mentorship opportunities from our elders and youth

General support to add? mixed

Human Resources - Proposed Objective 4

To encourage and foster volunteerism, in particular in relation to local governance (e.g membership on advisory committees)

Richard – how to tap into part time people. Would like meetings like this to have speaker phone capability so folks not on island can attend meetings.

Na – more a vision than objective

Marti – these forums are scheduled as they are so part time people can come over for the day

Willy – email is the answer to include part time people

Joseph – likes this as an objective, eg could be used as support for LIAS

Peter – hasn't been trouble finding people for APC etc, maybe leave it at volunteerism, without the eg..

General support to add? YES

Human Resources - Proposed Objective 6

To support specialized education of residents for skills that may benefit the community.

Danika – has a special interest in this topic, thinks about small communities, organizations like community futures etc. eg small business training

Camino – supports this, does it

Willy – can think of at least 3 things we need – eg training to take care of old people

General support to add? YES

Human Resources - Proposed Objective 7

To support promotion of entrepreneurial skills.

Peter - “entrepreneurial” includes alot, some of which he doesn't want to encourage

Mary Ellen –maybe needs rewording, sometimes making money can go against other objectives

Danika – entrepreneurial spirit different than big industry, valuable, this is most important thing to add to OCP

Robin – maybe add something about “sustainable, low impact ventures”

General support to add? YES – direct subcommittee to maybe somehow combine this objective with previous

Sustainability and Resilience - *Proposed Objective 1*

To support emergency preparedness education, including forest fire preparedness.

Could be merged with earlier objective about educating community vision, objectives etc.

General support to add? YES

Sustainability and Resilience - *Proposed Objective 2*

To support cooperative ventures for community services, such as tool sharing.

General support to add? YES

Sustainability and Resilience - Proposed Objective 3

To develop methods for community-driven bylaw enforcement (e.g. Whistle-blower process).

Joseph – include something about developing methods for community driven dispute resolution process (applause) to precede bylaw enforcement

Mary Ellen – doesn't like “whistleblower process” - sounds like neighbours telling on each other

Vikki – would like to see more about communication/talking it out

Robin – are complications with small community, fear of retaliation/physical violence. Needs to be some kind of process for when confrontation is scary

Willy – something about steps/process

Ruth – would like to see mediation option for Robin's point

Camino – need improvement of existing methods (ie reporting your neighbours to IT bylaw enforcement)

Peter – bylaw enforcement with Trust requires written complaint, complainant's name never released, IT has discretion to tell bylaw enforcement officer which bylaws to enforce.

Richard – be clear, community dispute resolution process would be in addition to/first step before IT bylaw enforcement process

Colin – we could establish a list of skilled mediators to address disputes

Marty – arbitration can be really valuable

Nadine – before moved here, dispute resolution centres were starting up to lessen load on courts, took training, learned that dispute resolution only works well when both parties want to engage in the process. Has to be some other angle/option. Around same time, were people on island who took same training, so we have skilled mediators here to consult/help

Noel – this could maybe be included with education on fire safety etc, foster development of dispute resolution skills.

Robin – 2 categories – 2 parties with needs in conflict vs one person witnessing some kind of illegal activity like environmental degradation.

General support to add? YES

Housing - *Proposed Objective 1*

To support affordable housing.

Camino - One of major challenges island faces, tied to many other challenges is that housing for young people wanting to work and live here is too expensive. wants to see an initiative to create more affordable housing for anyone who showed an interest in joining the community. As it stands if you happen to connect with the right person you may find a reasonably priced place to live. Otherwise you may not have the chance to get involved in this community and contribute what you have to offer.

General support to add? YES

Housing - *Proposed Objective 2*

To support the ability of younger people, and people with low and modest incomes, including new and old residents, to live on the island.

Richard – doesn't want this to turn into what's happening in Van, where owners are taxed for not renting their unoccupied house

Peter J - would like to see more discussion later

General support to add? YES

Housing - *Proposed Objective 3*

To support increased efficiency of homes (e.g. heating, energy use, water use).

Joseph - “resource efficiency”

General support to add? YES

Food - *Proposed Objective 1*

To ensure all residents have adequate food.

Richard – add “clean drinking water”

Noel – wary of issues around drinking water quality, doesn't want to say community wants to provide clean drinking water.

Peter – wary of issues, including water could limit development on dry sites

Richard – on Pete's Lake board, could be useful to have something in OCP to get help with issues

Lauri – what is “adequate”? different people have different requirements

Michael Wood – possible to store rain water, filter water, putting water into objective could be problematic.

Danika – sees this more as human resource objective – food bank etc.

Marti – need to be really careful saying anything about water

Colin – concerned about quality, not just quantity, don't need to put this in OCP, supports food bank, supporting ppl, wary of including in OCP

Sue K – take it out, will cause problems later

Noel –maybe “support local food sharing initiatives”, values support for folks who need help in a way

that doesn't segregate them out as "needy" - ie affordable community dinners/Weds social

Dave R – food is concern of individual, yes community should help when needed, but "ensure" is problematic, don't add.

Joseph – leave it out or shift to human resources , talk about making sure people aren't going hungry

Ruth – suggests including "The community is respectful and supportive of individual choice, preferences, privacy and needs." somewhere

Danika – we've lost community members because they haven't been able to feed themselves – folks with mental health issues, elderly, people lacking social skills or who don't want to ask for help, this is important

Andrew- this is more about hunger, food bank etc

General support to add? NO, but YES to something about hunger/local food sharing

Food - Proposed Objective 2

To support community facilities for food processing and preserving (e.g. dehydrating, canning, smoking, cold cellar).

Camino – supports idea, are difference in method, trying to keep things food safe could be difficult.

Willy – would be great to use excess power at school end of summer to dry fruit, make ice etc.

Noel – having a facility available for people to use doesn't mean they all have to use it in the same way, nice to have access to shared tools, not necessary for everyone to have eg Karl's nutcracker)

Colin – concerned about a facility, food safe etc, take out "facility"

Richard – maybe this should be combined with tool sharing

Laurie – dangerous to go with community thing belonging to community, all sorts of things could be provided entrepreneurially, private enterprise quite capable of meeting some of these needs.

Camino – dehydrating very different from canning, smoking etc. We do do this already, all the time.

Joseph – would like to see more preserving, make it easier etc, community facility is a red flag

Peter – there are community kitchens all over the province, built to food safe standards, required to be able to sell some things, not enough ppl here to warrant an entrepreneur building something to rent out

Danika – entrepreneurial spirit – could have canning circle

General support to add focussed on sharing, remove facility – YES

(some support for including "facility")

Food - Proposed Objective 3

To support establishment of a monthly winter food market / food swap

General support to add? YES

Economy - *Proposed Objective 1*

To support a local economy with sufficient employment at fair rates of pay to allow people to make a living on the island

Peter – consider putting something about supporting provision of benefits in there

Nadine – casual labour employers not required to provide benefits

Robin – nice to provide benefits, but also appreciates being about to run a business without excess regulation, wants to see "sustainable" not just economy

Marty – even with high rates of pay here it's hard to find someone to do work for you

Marti – employee can choose to sign themselves up for benefits

Willy – casual labour pays higher here.

Colin – self employed, pays his own WCB, insurance, not that expensive

Joseph – supports having a local economy so folks can make a living here. Lots of ways to make a living, would like to broaden, maybe change rates of pay to "compensation"

Noel – promote education re: higher price for companies that provide benefits etc to employees

Richard – take out “withfair rates of pay”

Danika – works in trades and would like to see more regulation of business owners/employers here, benefits etc provided, curious how many people are running businesses that aren't registered

General support to add as “To support a sustainable local economy to allow people to make a living on the island” YES

Economy - *Proposed Objective 2*

To encourage economic development other than conventional tourism, including cottage industries and services, education, workshops, etc.

Peter – economic development can't be stopped but doesn't want to encourage it

Willy – agrees where Peter is coming from, but in order to meet other goals like encouraging young people etc, we need this.

Nadine – how are we not doing this?

Colin – remember who's eyes are looking at this, “economic development” is a loaded term for planners, governments etc

Dave- this is contrary to what he believes Lasqueti is about

Joseph – other objectives address the kind of economic development that we want, could just not include this.

Laurie – in favour of not including this.

Vikki – if overriding principle is sustainability, say so

Sho – sees main point being “other than conventional tourism”

MaryEllen – to encourage “and conventional tourism”

Marti – best to strike whole thing, if not, would like to say “sustainable economic endeavours”

Ruth – ran a B&B, most clients came to Lasqueti to learn about sustainable living, since closing has had lots of requests from locals to host visiting family especially folks needing accessible accommodation, never made money, sees it as a service to the community.

Richard – if we don't want conventional tourism, just say we want to discourage

General support to add? NO

Economy - *Proposed Objective 3*

To support creation of a village at False Bay with various commercial services (e.g. stores, daycare) and shared infrastructure (e.g. Utilities).

Willy – where is included? What does this mean? Multistory?

Marti – APC looked at this, people felt it would work against people trying to start up businesses away from downtown

Peter – planners like clustering to allow more undeveloped land, our current land ownership system doesn't encourage this sort of clustering, as most people want to live on their own property.

Danika – believes we already have a village in FB, thinks we should have more businesses further south/spread out rather than concentrated

Dave – strike this, doesn't want to dictate what areas are allowed to develop community services

Robin – likes village idea, in favour of clustered density, leaving more land undeveloped, doesn't preclude commercial development elsewhere, would like to see some intentionality around FB, have people go there and not all over

Kirsty – in support of spot zoning that would allow eg tea house at the end of your driveway

Camino – already is a village that goes from False Bay to the Teapot house that he is involved in and supports. If a longer discussion was held we would likely find that many of us support the possible

improvement of some of the infrastructure that currently exists at False Bay. doesn't think there should be a village as in a small city. People hear the word 'development' and they automatically think its bad. However, the very existence of Lasqueti as it is today comes from many different 'developments' over time. certain developments can be a negative for others. And many can be positive.

General support to add? Mixed, mostly NO

Economy - *Proposed Objective 4*

To support creation of employment opportunities from repurposing of waste.

Mary Ellen – great idea, thinks alot of people doing this voluntarily should be compensated

Joseph, strongly supports this, thinks it's covered elsewhere, this objective is very specific

General support to add? Mixed, mostly NO

Economy - *Proposed Objective 5*

To regulate and manage tourism development as a commercial activity to maintain our rural community

Danika – seems ludicrous that we don't want to regulate other business owners (ie construction crews who don't provide benefits etc) or anything else, but we want to regulate tourism businesses

Noel – regulating and managing existing efforts to support tourists, run workshops etc could lead to folks stepping up to become bigger players to pay for extra costs

Willy – in favour of regulating and managing airbnb in order to have more long term rentals

Peter – IT has no interest in regulating tourism development, construction isn't considered land use.

Less than 30 days considered “short term” rental

Kathy – tourism relates to ferry usage, safety – hunters, fires, doesn't want a bunch of cowboys running around doing whatever they want.

Vikki – not clear what “regulate and manage” means. Have to be careful that tourism doesn't turn the place into something different from what drew people here in the first place. Can be done in sustainable manner,

Sue K – how would it be regulated and managed and who would be doing it?

Ruth – already didn't make money running a B&B, more regulation would make it prohibitive

Richard – hears sentiment that we want to limit the development of tourism

Laurie – less gov't is better gov't, don't need to regulate/zone everything on this island. Believes you should have the freedom to rent a building on your property, whether short or long term. Freedom is what Lasqueti is about.

Joseph – key points are tourism development as commercial, maintain rural community

Camino – most of us came here initially as visitors. If we want to support more people moving to the island, we need to welcome them as visitors/tourists first.

Robin – isn't a business obviously a commercial activity, isn't clear what this objective is trying to do – is it about airbnbs? Feels like it's using coded language. Doesn't like this as it it, wants something more clear

Peter – land use bylaw currently allows BnB in your dwelling, short term rentals require commercial zoning

Noel – who are the vulnerable people in these situations - ie workers, cultural thing in our community

Laurie - our zoning bylaws should reflect density rather than rental, rural or commercial Small scale business should be allowed including rental units if the density on the property is maintained within the "rural" or community zone. After all the point of the 10 acre minimum was to prevent high density use as in numbers of people living on Lasqueti.

Ross – maybe just take out regulate and manage

Willy – thinks we need to have some rules/policy

General support to add? mixed

Economy - *Proposed Objective 6*

To consider short-term vacation rentals as commercial activities, and as distinct from long-term rentals.

Sho – currently you can build a guest cabin, use it occasionally for guests, can apply for commercial zoning and use it for commercial tourist use, would like to see provision to use that cabin as long term rental for someone who wants to live here to use.

Hilary – need to discuss this more, let's recognize that tourism businesses have certain impacts – ferry use, fire & community safety concerns etc. Would like to see more long term rentals available for people, why not use existing buildings

Noel – when guest cabins are rented long term (illegally), renters don't have rights and are vulnerable

Laurie – maybe we should separate density from land use

Peter – in other places, short term rentals can cause probs with guests who want to party – fires, noise, drunkenness etc, but this hasn't really been an issue on Lasqueti, also there will be many more chances to talk about this via IT process after this LCA process.

Richard – aimed at limiting density, should focus on this square on – more density north end, less towards south. “Rural nature” means diff things to diff people, we need to get specific - #s of ppl, or ??/lot/acre etc

General support to add? Mixed, mostly YES

adjourned 3:50pm!!!