

Galiano Island Official Community Plan Review: Forest Policies

This document sets out the process design for Phase II of the 'Forest Policies' segment of the Galiano OCP Review. The document is based on a process design developed by the community in Phase I of the process during June and July, 2006.

Task:

The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) of the Islands Trust initiated a review of the Forest Policies in the OCP and offered the community two choices for doing that review: either the LTC would handle the review, or the community could participate in a "facilitated review". After some consideration, a large public meeting on June 4, 2006, adopted the following determination:

"We favour a facilitated review process which would include:

- full presentation of information about current bylaws, forest policies and related issues including Private Managed Forest Lands,
- an option that the process could be rolled into a full Official Community Plan review,
- an option that the process designers would have to recommend timelines of the process to the Trustees."

That determination defines the community's understanding of the Review process and guides the design and conduct of the Review. Building on that initial determination, the community, in a series of well-attended public meetings moderated by a facilitator, developed the principles of a process design for the Review. The determination to proceed together with the principles of the process design constituted Phase I of the Review. The task for Phase II is to consider all information about Galiano's Forest Policies in the context of the Galiano OCP, to identify issues for discussion in the Forest Policies, and to explore the range of options relating to those Policies.

Background:

Because Galiano's forest lands compose a large part of the island's land area, the Forest Policies have always been a key component of the Official Community Plan. An Information Team was enlisted during Phase I to examine, among other issues, the historical basis for the current bylaws. The report from the Information Team will form the background for the current Review.

Process Framework:

The Review will proceed through a series of sessions or groups of sessions based on a “holistic management” (HM) approach, such as “Holistic Resource Management”. A holistic management approach is a way to identify community values, then to provide measures for those values to see how they are realized under a series of options. Issues (or “questions”) are considered through the lenses of the *people, economy* and *future landscape* to determine how the community’s values are best served by each option.

SESSION OR GROUPS OF SESSIONS	ACTIVITY
<p><u>Session 1.</u> (in 2 parts, one session)</p> <p><u>Morning:</u> Introduction and set purpose, guidelines, schedules...</p> <p>What informs the review? (presented by Information Team)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legislation • policy • OCP context • What’s on the ground? <p>Select needed teams. Informal lunch; informal discussion</p> <p><u>Afternoon:</u> An appreciation of the island</p> <p>Identify values leading to a 3-part goal (people, landscape, economy)</p> <p>Record all. Distribute handout for next session (copies of OCP Forest Policy).</p>	<p>Build checklist</p> <p>Administration, workbook, recording, etc</p> <p>Workbook begins</p>
<p><u>Session 2. Framing the Issues I</u></p> <p>Review the 3 pages of OCP forest land policy. Determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. clauses agreed B. clauses needing clarity C. clauses not agreed D. clauses needed <p>B, C, and D constitute the issues</p>	<p>Begin the ‘A’ list. Record in workbook</p>
<p><u>Session 3. Brainstorm suggestions for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. how to improve clarity C. how to reach agreement D. what’s needed <p>Combine and refine suggestions.</p> <p>Outline possible activities for break between meetings. For instance, between meetings, suggestions towards agreement can be refined/improved and written as proposals. A rationale, or defence, of each suggestion to be added. Ad hoc, unfacilitated meetings are possible here to combine thoughts, discussion, etc.</p>	<p>Workbook distributed to solicit suggestions from those not attending</p> <p>Receive ideas from those with workbooks.</p> <p>Questions for HM model grid to be prepared</p>

<p><u>Session 4. Framing the Issues II</u> Proposals and rationales submitted including from workbooks Discussion toward full understanding of proposals Comments from information team re: checklist/goals etc. Develop and list pro's and con's for each proposal</p> <p>Between meetings: Groups can form and meet to discuss toward agreement and possible merging of proposals. Final drafts of proposals and defences prepared.</p>	<p>Merge proposals from workbooks. Transfer agreed issues to the 'A' list. Include pros and cons in workbook.</p> <p>Additions to 'A' list</p>
<p><u>Session 5. Final Proposals</u> Record proposals and add to HM grid along with questions. Session applies answers to the questions on the HM grid for each proposal and grid results are tallied. Between meetings: draft report document prepared to include all results: 'A' list, all proposals and reasons for them, all pros and cons, HM results, checklist, everything.</p>	<p>Tweak proposals.</p> <p>Include proposals offered in workbook</p>
<p><u>Session 6. Report Document</u> Review and revise if needed, ratify and submit document</p>	

A variety of discussion options might be used to resolve issues in categories B, C, and D listed in the framework table. The facilitator, working with HM approach, can help the community decide which options might work best.

Discussion Principles:

Good Faith: Participants will discuss in good faith with a view to reaching a conclusion to all the matters at issue in the review. A good faith discussion is one characterized by honesty, disclosure of accurate information, personal authenticity, and openness.

Integrated Discussion: Participants will *seek* integrated outcomes in the recommendations they discuss. An integrated outcome is one in which participants elect to work together to seek options for mutual benefit, integrating their resources, originality and expertise.

Interest Based Discussion: Participants will attempt, through their discussion, to craft a solution to the matters at issue by seeking to advance the *interests* of all residents and land owners rather than by simply advancing their own *position*. The parties will fully explore all the matters at issue with a view to seeking an outcome that accommodates, rather than compromises, the interests of all concerned. in that regard, participants will seek to:

- a) clearly articulate their interests, values and reasons for them;
- b) understand the interests of other participants and all others concerned, whether or not they are in agreement with them; and,
- c) identify outcomes that accommodate the interests of other participants and all others concerned, as well as their own.

Process Meeting Guidelines:

Participants in any of the public meetings are expected to respect the following guidelines, which will be reviewed as necessary at the beginning of each meeting:

- Presentation of points of view will be in a non-provocative manner.
- The meetings will provide a safe place to express ideas and opinions without fear.
- Put-downs and personal attacks will not be tolerated and positive comments will be encouraged.
- One person will be permitted to speak at a time.
- Participants will manage their own behaviour and their own emotions.
- Participants will not make mischievous comments, including sighs and groans, will avoid applause, will avoid expression of frustration and will be aware of the tone of voice and intent behind their words.
- Small groups will be used to promote/allow for more comfortable participation.
- Participants will speak for themselves and not attempt to express the opinions of others.
- Speakers will be discouraged from expressing the same views and ideas more than once.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Community

This is a review of the Official Community Plan, and the community has an intrinsic interest in the process. Individual members of the community will publicly articulate their values and goals with respect to the future of the island, and the consequent collective wisdom of the community will inform this Review. Community participation will be guided by the Process Framework, Discussion Principles, and Process Meeting Guidelines outlined in this document.

Facilitator

The facilitator will:

- begin each process meeting by articulating the objectives of the meeting
- remain impartial

- accept guidance from the community on the direction of the process
- clarify responsibility for communicating content from previous meetings
- encourage the participation and confidence of the Trustees

The facilitator will not:

- act in a judgmental way towards participants or their points of view
- direct participants or the review towards any pre-determined goal
- rush the process or participants

The assistance will include:

- guiding the process and keeping people on track.
- encouraging those who have not had a chance to speak to do so
- helping create focus on the issues
- helping maintain a sense of purpose
- acknowledging emotion and recognizing what motivates its expression
- helping state the forest policy problem(s) that the process is to resolve
- encouraging discussion and helping produce an informed consensus
- ensuring guidelines are respected by participant - gentle reminder
- not permitting anyone to dominate the meeting, but assuring a diverse discussion
- checking with participants at the end of meetings about the degree of friendliness and respectfulness

The skills applied by the facilitator will include:

- reflecting back and confirming the group's wishes
- asking for further clarity from a speaker

Support Teams

The support team(s) established by the community as a whole received direction from the whole group and are responsible to the group. Individual members of the support team(s) will commit to devoting the time and energy necessary to completing the assigned tasks. Since the function of a support team is administrative, individual members must maintain an unbiased attitude to their work on the team.

Planning Staff

The Islands Trust Planner is to:

- Act as resource to the community, based upon availability as directed by the Local Trust Committee. Specifically the Planner is to offer comments and possible consequences regarding any options or ideas suggested by the community and to offer alternatives where it might help enrich discussions by the community.
- Manage the budget associated with the project and to act as a general resource to all meetings.
- Be the Islands Trust staff contact for the facilitator regarding any issues arising from the process.

The Planner shall, in all actions:

- Respect and integrate the needs of future generations;
- Overcome or compensate for jurisdictional limitations;
- Value the natural and cultural environment;
- Recognize and react positively to uncertainty;
- Respect Diversity;
- Balance the needs of community and individuals;
- Foster public participation;
- Articulate and communicate values.

Local Trust Committee

This Review is intended to inform the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee for their legislative role. The community, aided by a contracted facilitator, will conduct the Review following the process developed in Phase I. Consequently Trustees shall listen to but not participate in the Review except when asked by the community to answer questions.

Public Engagement:

A fundamental principle of the review is that the public should be involved at all times. That means using a variety of communication and engagement methods to assure the greatest number of people can participate in the review. For the Review to be credible, it must constitute the voices of the community.

Details about meetings will be documented, accessible and reported in a timely way. The level of participation in the review will be noted. Reporting will include detail of the issues being discussed and the facts they are based on.

A Review workbook will be developed to help engage the public and keep it informed. The workbook will serve the need for informing and soliciting feedback from those who do not attend the public sessions.

Other possible ways of engaging the public, depending on resources and under the direction of the community, include:

- small scale meetings by neighbourhood
- using the Active Page reports
- providing copies video coverage of meetings for loan or public showing
- using a questionnaire
- an information fair
- using public notice boards at a variety of locations
- polling opinion data from an informed public
- including a sign-in sheet for meetings

Administration:

The administration framework for the Review is implied in the Process Framework. The community has recognized that while the process meetings are directed by the public

working together as a whole, some of the administration tasks are better handled by smaller teams working under the direction of the whole and reporting back to the whole. One example of such a team – the Information Team – has already been established and is actively working on its tasks. Another type of working team commonly used in OCP reviews is an administration team or steering committee. Such a team might handle recording of minutes, generating reports, distributing information, managing the budget and other support functions. During Session 1, as outlined in the Process Framework, the community as a whole will decide which additional support team(s) might be necessary and could select the members of these team(s) in a similar manner to how the Information Team was handled.

Product:

The product of the Review is a report to the Local Trust Committee as defined in the Process Framework. The HM approach to the project encourages consensus-building but also allows for a full reporting of points of agreement and disagreement on issues where consensus cannot be achieved. Both the points of consensus and the points of disagreement, presented with the full range of ideas and options, serve to inform the LTC and are considered valid and valuable results of the Review.

The community is engaging in this facilitated Review with the understanding that there is “an option that the process could be rolled into a full Official Community Plan review”. One possible product of the Review is the community’s desire to exercise that option.

Schedule:

The LTC has expressed a desire that the Review be completed by November 15, 2006. The number of facilitated meetings is specified in the Process Framework and is limited by the budget for the facilitator. Given the way the Forest Policies are intertwined in the Galiano OCP and understanding the importance of these Policies to many islanders who hold widely differing opinions, the community decided in Phase I to undertake the Review as long as there was “an option that the process designers would have to recommend timelines of the process to the Trustees.” The community will work in good faith towards the November 15 goal, but the community may exercise the option to extend the process as necessary to avoid a rushed result that could carry with it the lingering feeling of unresolved conflicts and public disenfranchisement. By extending the project, the number of facilitated meetings could remain the same, but more time might be required between meetings for support teams to gather and manage information. Meanwhile, the LTC remains unfettered to continue work on other projects and to begin work on other aspects of the OCP review.