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The bylaws that won't lie down—trick or treat?

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A very costly set of bylaws has engulfed the entire three-year term of the current Galiano Island Local Trust Committee (LTC). As Hallowe'en, elections and a new Islands Trust term approach, the story gets weirder and weirder. The situation has now drawn the whole of Trust Council under its spell.

On June 24, as a customary procedure, the Islands Trust Executive Committee considered Bylaws 199 and 200 referred by Galiano Island Local Trust Committee. The proposed bylaws would change the Galiano's Forest zoning. The Executive committee refused approval of the bylaws, because they were considered to be inconsistent with the over-arching Trust Policy Statement.

Things started to get spooky on July 7, when the Galiano LTC referred Bylaws 199 and 200 to the Islands Trust Council for approval, a never before used procedure. Trustees Roy Smith (not standing again for Trust but standing for CRD Director) and Michael Sharp called for an extraordinary meeting rather than wait for September's quarterly Trust Council meeting. This cost taxpayers \$15,000.

On August 14, the Islands Trust Council did consider Bylaws 199 and 200 and refused approval of the bylaws with reasons (see *Island Tides* August 21, page 1, in our online archive, www.islandtides.com).

Following the special meeting, on August 28 the Executive Committee provided a letter with advice to the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee regarding forest land issues.

On September 19 the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee referred amended Bylaws 199 and 200 to the Executive Committee for approval.

On October 15, the Executive Committee considered the amended Bylaws 199 and 200 and returned the bylaws; again for lack of congruence with Trust Policy, naming in particular Galiano's road network. The deletion of the Heritage Forest Zone without public consultation has also been questioned. Galiano's OCP Review begins in the new year and these issues will be comprehensively addressed then.

Time Running Out

On October 17, the Galiano LTC referred the amended bylaws

199 and 200 to the full Islands Trust Council for reconsideration.

Also on October 17, Trustees Brian Hollingshead, Tom Johnstone, Jeanine Dodds and Peter Frinton directed that a vote be conducted by Resolution without Meeting (RWM) to call another Special Meeting of the Islands Trust Council on Hallowe'en to consider the bylaws. (Hollingshead, Frinton and Johnstone are not standing for Trust in the November 15 election, Dodds is acclaimed.)

This RWM was defeated 14 to 12 at noon on Wednesday, October 22. Those opposed to the meeting were: Ken Hancock, Gary Steeves, Louise Bell, Bronwyn Preece, Wendy Scholefield, Rose Willow, Peter Lamb, Kim Benson, Sheila Malcomson, Peter Luckham, George Ehring, Bruce McConchie, Sue French, and Giselle Rudischer. Those in favour of the meeting were: Peter Frinton, Joyce Clegg, Tony Law, Ron Emerson, Brian Hollingshead, Roy Smith, Jeanine Dodds, David Graham, Michael Sharp, Gary Rowe, Tom Johnstone, and Alison Morse.

However, like a zombie, the issue sprang from the grave within hours with another RWM moved by Tony Law (Hornby), seconded by Gary Rowe (Mayne, not standing again) to call another special meeting on November 21, once again days ahead of the December quarterly meeting (the one for which new trustees will be sworn in).

This time the vote without meeting or debate (on Friday, October 24) was reversed, 14 in favour of the \$15,000 special meeting and 12 opposed. Sue French (Thetis) and Bronwen Preece (Lasqueti) changed their vote to enable the meeting.

This November 21 meeting will truly be a debate from the dead: elections will have taken place, new trustees will not be included, and fully 11 of the 26 council members will not even have been part of the election process.

Many Galianoites are wondering when their nightmare will end. ☹

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