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LTC turns down TUP PDQ

An Temporary Use Permit application to use a former automotive repair shop as a local-grown food store was turned down in short order by Trustees Janine Dodds and Colin Shew at a Mayne Island Local Trust Committee meeting on June 7. Following the meeting, the unexpected outcome had some Islanders in tears at what they saw as a error in judgment (see also Letters, page 4).

The temporary use permit was coupled to a rezoning application to change the originally spot-zoned property from C-3 to C-1 to enable the commencement of the operation of the farm store. Applicants, farmers Don and Shanti McDougall, bought the property next to the Fernhill Centre earlier this year, after trying for some years to buy another C-1 property in Miners Bay.

Given the amount of community support and the move to reduce GHG in the community, attendees at the meeting saw the permit as a done deal.

Islands Trust planners had suggested the TUP application as a way of jump-starting the operation for the 2010 growing season and a way to gauge community response pending the rezoning process. The staff report was in favour of the TUP, as was LTC Chair Gary Steeves' vote.

The rezoning application had been removed from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. An information meeting for the rezoning is currently scheduled for July 5.

Following the meeting, Shanti McDougall filed an Administrative Complaint against the Dodds and Shew. Subsequently, Richard Tamboline filed an Administrative Complaint against Gary Steeves and the Islands Trust planners.

The MacDougalls' lawyer has sent a letter to the Islands Trust stating that Janine Dodds has a financial conflict of interest in the matter as she holds the mortgage on a C-1 property in Miners Bay; and that the LTC should reconsider the TUP and recuse her from the proceedings.

Mayne Island with its rich valleys has a proud history of farming, including growing tomatoes under glass. The MacDougalls have been farming on Mayne for 15 years during which time they sold produce at the farmgate.

In 2001, they were a major force in the creation of the Mayne Saturday Market, and have been active in Mayne's folk music scene. Mayne has been a vibrant locavore and sustainable living island, evidenced by *Island Tides*' 'Good Life' column. ✍

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