



**4. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Carlin, **SECONDED** by Director Holman, that the Salt Spring Island Economic Development Commission agenda of February 14, 2022 be approved as amended by updating item 9.1 CESC Digital Media Communication Associate RFP to “Digital Contents Specialist and Contract” and by adding item 9.4 Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) Grant Application February 25, 2022 Deadline.

**CARRIED**

**5. Adoption of Minutes of November 22, 2021**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Carlin, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Young, that the Salt Spring Island Economic Development Commission minutes of November 22, 2021 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Delegation/Presentations**

**6.1 Theresa Duynstee, Agricultural Alliance**

- 2022 project “Expanding the Local Food Economy” aims to connect farmers with a diversity of local buyers.
- Seeking funding to hire a contractor for two days a week between March and November, 2022.
- Agricultural Alliance website updates underway with a goal of becoming more user friendly.
- Abattoir expansion project underway.
- Farmers & Local Food Resilience Café scheduled for February 22, and Seedy Saturday scheduled for February 26, 2022.

**6.2 Trustee Laura Patrick, Islands Trust**

- Landlords needed in support of rental housing.
- Updates to the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355 underway for legalizing small cottages as of right.
- Housing and Workforce Shortage Crisis Declaration across all islands passed in December 2021.

**7. Director and Commissioner Reports**

**Director Holman** briefly reported:

- Increase in assessed values for Salt Spring Island and the southern Gulf Islands at about 35%. Increase in assessed values for CRD as a whole was about 25%.
- Composting project underway. Farmland Trust and Salt Spring Abattoir reached a long term rental agreement and possible Provincial grant funding.
- Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Services Commission to support the Composter with a bylaw amendment to include organics and an intent to operate on a cost recovery basis.
- Future intent to sell island wide following Islands Trust approval through Rezoning or Temporary Use Permit.
- Fire halls now eligible for gas tax funding.

- Salt Spring Island population has grown by 10%.
- BC Housing funding 28 units of affordable housing on Drake Road.
- Province announced new regulations in Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

### **7.1 2022 The Path Forward**

**Chair Carlin** briefly reported:

- Strengthened Community Economic Partnerships with key sector organizations while supporting regional collaborations.
- Economic Development Coordinator role awarded.
- In the last six years, CEDC has brought hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants and revenue opportunities for cross economic sector benefit to the SSI community and the greater southern Gulf Islands region.
- Launch of the SSI-Economic Leaders Group which will formulate recommendations for sustainable SSI Economic Recovery & Resilience.
- Reader friendly Economic Education Project.
- Grants Clearinghouse via SSI Information Hub.
- Continued Advocacy regarding housing, Short Term Vacation Rentals (STVR) solutions and Ganges Village Planning.

### **7.2 SSI Foundation Focus Group**

- Seasonal turnover causes housing difficulties for both employers and employees.
- Smaller businesses facing challenges in securing employer housing.

### **7.3 Housing Advocacy Update**

- Less people available to work in small businesses due to the again population.

### **7.4 Climate Coach Project**

- First public facing program through Transition Salt Spring.
- Launched six months ago.
- Hub for advice and information regarding local, regional and national incentives to reduce emission impacts and the environmental footprint of homes, buildings, and surrounding properties.
- Number of webinars held with close to 1000 attendees.
- Appreciation expressed for CRD funding received.
- Creating job opportunities on Salt Spring Island.
- Collage insulator course discussion underway with School District 64 (SD64).
- Rainwater harvesting rebate launched with 28 new sign ups.
- It was asked if the other southern Gulf Islands were being funded through their rainwater rebate funding. Commissioner Young to report back to the Commission with an update.

### 7.5 Love Local Initiative

- Chamber received funding from BC Chamber to promote economic activity across southern Gulf Islands.
- Overall success that promoted local businesses.
- Grand prize winner won a trip to another island promoting interisland travel.
- Each island spent \$2,500 supporting local businesses.

## 8. Outstanding Business

### 8.1 Agricultural Alliance Request for Unexpended Funds for ICET Local Food Economy Project

**MOVED** by Commissioner Carlin, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wood, that the Salt Spring Island Economic Development Commission recommend that the Community Economic Development Commission approve a fee for service contract with the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance in the amount of \$7,000 for the development and coordination of a marketing program for Salt Spring Island agricultural products.

**CARRIED**

### 8.2 Community Data Base – SSI Library and Community Foundations Data Platform

- In 2021 a student was hired to gather available data to better understand the Salt Spring Island Community development over time.
- Salt Spring Island Library possible location to house data.
- The Commission asked if Summer Student Grant opportunities were available and staff confirmed the closing date was January 25, 2022.
- A suggestion to apply for grant funding in 2023 was made.
- Interagency collaboration noted with possible CRD and/or Islands Trust funding opportunities.
- Future collaboration with Transition Salt Spring discussed.

### 8.3 Bylaw for CEDC Name Change to CESC

**MOVED** by Commissioner Zentner, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Griffin, that the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff be directed to proceed with preparing an amendment bylaw to change the name of the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission to the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Sustainability Commission.

**CARRIED**

#### **8.4 Empty House Speculation Tax Options**

- CEDC passed a resolution in November 2021 recommending revenue from the Speculation and Vacancy Tax raised on Salt Spring Island be earmarked for Salt Spring Island.
- The Commission expressed support regarding ongoing advocacy for Empty House Speculation Tax inclusion specific to the Southern Gulf Islands.
- The Commission discussed customization strategies for the southern Gulf Islands, Whistler and Tofino. The Commission to contact Whistler and Tofino for further discussion.
- A suggestion was made for earmarking STVRs for affordable housing as a permanent funding mechanism.

### **9. New Business**

#### **9.1 Digital Contents Specialist and Contract**

- The Commission stated funds were being used ineffectively through the existing Social Media Program.
- The Commission expressed support for a Digital Contents Specialist to develop six web blog features on specific CEDC topics.
- The Commission and Jesse Brown, Economic Development Coordinator, to finalize topics.
- Proposing a \$5,000 contact plus insurance on a pilot basis.

Commissioner Muzyka left the meeting at 2:53pm.

#### **9.2 Survey Input for Fire Services and Facilities on Salt Spring Island**

- Commissioners asked to participate in the survey.
- Results forthcoming.

#### **9.3 CRD Business License Report Outcomes**

- Cost for business licenses estimated at \$200,000 a year.
- Report received with further information forthcoming.

#### **9.4 Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) Grant Application February 25, 2022 Deadline**

- Matching funds required and unavailable.
- Possible Gas Tax Funding discussed.
- Staff to look at possible shovel ready projects however, limited time before the application deadline was recognized by all.

Commissioner Michaelsen left the meeting at 3:02pm.

### **10. Next Meeting – May 16, 2022 at the Salt Spring Island Library Meeting Room, 129 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, BC**

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:08pm.

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**CHAIR**

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**SENIOR MANAGER**