

SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING, March 9th, 2015
Harbour House Hotel, Saltspring Island

1. Attendance. Ian Dow, George Harris, David Howe, Paul LeBlond, Leigh Pullen (Chair), Priscilla Zimmerman.

The meeting came to order at 2:30 pm. It was preceded by a joint meeting with SSI EDC members, CRD Director, Trustees and Chamber of Commerce representatives. Notes from that meeting are attached.

2. The agenda was approved as circulated, by consensus.

3. Minutes of the Feb 9 meeting were approved (M: Ian, S:Leigh) with modification: Under #3 Membership, Ian Dow's words to the effect that he was unsure of continuing as a member were misinterpreted as his resignation. Wording should read:

"Ian Dow expressed doubts about his continued availability on the EDC . He will decide before the next meeting. "

4. Parking at Montague Harbour. George Harris addressed the issue of insufficient parking at the Montague Dock and reported on his consultations with Sheila Midgley (SGI Harbours Commission) and a contractor to assess need and availability of more parking space. His request of a letter of support from the EDC was approved (George and Paul to draft the letter for Dave's signature).

5. George Harris requested support for an attempt to come up with a "village name" for Galiano Island's commercial hub. A festival and competition were proposed. David Howe offered the possibility of a grant in aid (\$5,000) to organize such events.

6. Website development. Priscilla reported no further progress. [Although the sustainableislands.ca website has evidently received a facelift].

7. Ian Dow reported on dock repairs. His estimate of \$700,000 to repair all SGI Harbours Commission docks was based on engineer Hugh Tuttle's report on the Miner's Bay dock. Mayne and Saturna docks currently being worked on..

8. Broadband communication. David Howe reported that Vancity supported (possible loan of \$300,00) the proposal made by Beacon to Industry Canada for upgrading its services in the SGI. The Alberta group which presented to this Commission last month also met with Vancity, outlining a much more expensive (\$M20) project plan. Apparently Vancity would look for a joint venture with the CRD.

9. Budget allocation. The EDC's annual budget is \$40,000. Last year, only \$21,000 was spent.

MOTION: That the budget for the coming year remain at \$40,000, that the \$19,000 remaining from last year be carried forward to this year, and that up to \$25,000 of this coming year's funding be devoted to the development of the new SSI-SGI service review process. M: Ian Dow; S; George Harris. Carried.

10 Next meeting. On Galiano Island, 21 April.