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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Sustainability Commission Held Monday, May 16, 2022, in the Public Library 129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC

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**Present:** **CRD Director:** Gary Holman  
**Commission Members:** Francine Carlin, Jason Griffin, Daniel Wood, Inga Michaelson, Bryan Young (via Zoom), Dr. Daniel Muzyka, Gerard Zentner, Theresa Duynstee  
**Staff:** Karla Campbell, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Administration, Jesse Brown, Economic Development Coordinator, Shayla Burnham, Recording Secretary, and Carrie Cogan, Recording Secretary

### 1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

Chair Carlin provided a Territorial Acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED** by Commissioner Zentner, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Michaelson, that the Salt Spring Island Economic Sustainability Commission agenda of May 16, 2022 be approved as amended by adding the updated Community Economic Forum Terms of Reference and the Priority Area: Economic Sustainability 2022 document for information.

**CARRIED**

### 3. Adoption of Minutes of April 25, 2022

**MOVED** by Commissioner Griffin, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wood that the Salt Spring Island Economic Sustainability Commission Special minutes of the April 25, 2022 meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

### 4. Delegations/Presentations

#### 4.1 Sherese Johnson re: Rising Tide Business Services

- Creating new and revamping pre-existing websites.
- Free digital marketing helpline for Rural Economic Partnership (REP) members. A total of 25 members assisted to date with 15 services and solutions packages purchased.

Commissioner Muzyka entered the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

- Five websites for non-profit organizations have been developed, one small business website, seven website audits, four starter packs and two social media packages have been completed.
- Affordable, competitive pricing ranging from \$40.00 – \$50.00 p/hr.

- Adapting to customer feedback and learning from different sectors island wide.
- Contracts for website updates with the Agricultural Alliance and Farmlands Trust

**4.2 Stephen Mulhein (SSI Kitchen) re: SSI Food Hub Complex**

- Successful utilization of commercial space by local food based businesses.
- Spoke to the difficulties faced with the existing building and shared his vision of a larger public space by potentially elongating the existing building to make room for additional local businesses.
- Six to eight businesses have expressed interested in the potential future expansion.
- Discussion occurred about a potential space for the arts community.
- The Commission asked if the expansion plans had been approved by the Islands Trust and Mr. Mulhein confirmed not.
- Discussion regarding potential future retail enhancement funding occurred.
- The Commission asked if a future pathway connecting Merchant Mew's to Ganges would be constructed and staff responded that the pathway completion is a goal of the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission.
- The Commission acknowledged the drive in tourism the complex provides.

**4.3 Trustee Laura Patrick re: Islands Trust**

- Proposed Bylaw No. 530 was read for a first time on April 19, 2022.
- The Commission asked if there was any objection to the draft Bylaw No. 530 and Trustee Patrick responded that some feedback had been received regarding potential overpopulation concerns however, further confirmed a large amount of public support.
- The Commission asked for an update on the status of Ganges Village Planning and Trustee Patrick responded it was slowly moving forward.

**5. Director and Commissioner Reports**

**Director Holman** briefly reported:

- Local Community Commission (LCC) Advisory Committee discussion paper is now public.
- The next ASK Salt Spring meeting will focus on LCC discussion.
- North Salt Spring Waterworks District is considering relaxing the water moratorium which could potentially assist with affordable housing, specifically in regards to the CRD property on Drake Road which is serviced by Mount Maxwell.
- Staff working on a grant application to CleanBC to establish a number of new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations.

**Chair Carlin** – no report.

**Commissioner Duynstee** briefly reported:

- Grow Local product has been underway since April 2022 and is being led by the Agricultural Alliance which is addressing the Area Farm Plan by building collaborative opportunities.
- Agricultural Alliance is seeking a Local Food System Developer to manage the “Expanding the Local Food Economy Project” from March to November 2022.
- Contact with producers, local food distributors and buyers to learn more about their operations is underway.

**Commissioner Wood** briefly reported:

- Ongoing concerns regarding affordable housing.
- Stated that David Eby, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing, recommended that members from the Islands Trust Housing Taskforce and the CESC submit a formal delegation request to speak with the Ministry.

**Commissioner Griffin** briefly reported:

- Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Edu Tourism project had successful meeting with great potential tourism and business opportunities.

**Commissioner Young** briefly reported:

- Community Investment Funding webinar was well attended by island housing and community finance advocates.

## **6. Outstanding Business**

### **6.1 Speculation and Vacancy Tax**

- Staff Report will be submitted to the Electoral Areas Commission in July 2022.

### **6.2 Community Data Hub**

- No update.

### **6.3 Opportunity Salt Spring Blog**

- Hired a web contest specialist to complete a series of educational blogs.

### **6.4 Community Economic Forum Terms of Reference Update**

- Discussion took place under item 6.5 Draft Scope of Work (data) RFP.

**6.5 Draft Scope of Work (data) RFP**

- Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) grant funding approved to complete the economic development study.
- Adjusted the Terms of Reference to be focused on developing an economic action plan and to retain a consultant to develop, maintain and facilitate in coordination with the Commission.
- Updated the composition of the economic forum to ensure inclusion of representatives from local First Nations.
- The Terms of Reference will form the basis of the Request for Proposals (RFP) which will go out to tender.
- Commissioner Duynstee has initiated work on a draft RFP for staff to review.

**MOVED** by Director Holman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wood, that the Salt Spring Island Economic Sustainability Commission invite the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Trustees and the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area Director as observers to the monthly forum update meetings.

**CARRIED**

**Commissioner Muzyka Opposed  
Commissioner Zentner Opposed**

- Some members of the Commission expressed concern that the meetings would become political if elected officials were to attend.
- Some members of the Commission expressed support for elected officials to attend the meetings stating that communication was key.

**7. New Business – None**

**8. Next Meeting – Monday, September 12, 2022 at the Salt Spring Island Library Meeting Room, 129 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, BC**

**9. Adjournment**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Carlin, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Zentner, that the Salt Spring Island Economic Sustainability Commission adjourn the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

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**CHAIR**

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**SENIOR MANAGER**