

Meeting November 14, 2018

MP Goldsmith-Jones office in Horseshoe Bay

Attending: Kate-Louise Stamford – Gambier Local Trustee
Doug Conyers – Squamish Nation Marine Group
Pamela Goldsmith-Jones – MP
Mark Hiltz – Area F Director Sunshine Coast Regional District
Nicholas Simons – MLA (via phone)

These are the highlights from the discussion as I understood them:

- Recognition that the dock facility is vital to the ongoing functioning of the island community in the south west peninsula of Gambier Island.
- New Brighton facility is by far the most heavily used dock in the Atli'Kitsem islands apart from Snug Cove on Bowen Island
- BC Ferries has a certain duty to maintain a contracted water taxi service to Gambier Island and that the New Brighton dock is the only structure protected enough to provide consistent access through the winter as well as has the appropriate upland infrastructure to service the dock.
- That there was no process or impact assessment done by the federal government regarding the reliance of the island community on this facility when they divested the New Brighton dock in 2013.
- That no matter who acquired ownership of the dock five years ago, there was no realistic opportunity to develop a private revenue stream large enough to cover the ongoing costs of maintaining the facility.
- That the Sunshine Coast Regional District has stated it is not interested in obtaining the New Brighton dock due to the significant cost challenges it is also incurring with the nine docks it received from the federal government in 2001/2002.
- The community in the south west area of Gambier Island is not large enough to have the organization to manage the New Brighton dock itself. This is because of the small full-time population in relation to the large percentage of recreational property owners (about 85%)
- The Squamish Nation Marine Group has received permission to extend the time it has to spend the remaining maintenance funds from the original 5-year agreement. It is currently contracting to repair the dock for about \$400,000 this winter.
- After the dock is repaired this winter, there should be no major costs for the facility apart from insurance for approximately the next two years.
- The Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Uxwumixw is meeting sometime in the next couple of weeks to consider its options in terms of its continued ownership of the New Brighton Dock. An

email dated late January from Khelsilem reiterated that the Council was still deciding how best to proceed with the New Brighton Dock.

ACTIONS:

- MLA Simons to take this issue to provincial staff to develop a way to ensure this facility remains open and affordable for public use as a BC Ferries access point for Gambier Island whether the Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw retains ownership or not.
- MP Goldsmith-Jones to look for further input into how the dock was divested with the option for closure without consultation with the community. Also, to review what options are available at a federal level to support the ongoing maintenance of the New Brighton dock as a public facility.

What ever decisions are made in terms of the future of the New Brighton dock, a public meeting or engagement process should be made available to the local community in recognition of the importance this facility has in the daily lives of the islanders here.