



Memo

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 13th, 2025

SUBJECT: Notes of Public Meeting held on Monday, May 5th, 2025

Notes of Public Meeting held at Upper Centennial Hall, 309 South Shore Road, Lake Cowichan, BC at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 5, 2025

PRESENT: Tim McGonigle, Mayor
Councillor Carolyne Austin
Councillor Aaron Frisby
Councillor Kristine Sandhu
Councillor Lorna Vomacka

STAFF: Mark Brown, Chief Administrative Officer
Jas Sandhu, Superintendent, Public Works, and Engineering Services
Eliza Ellison, FireSmart Coordinator

PUBLIC: 44

Mayor McGonigle welcomed everyone and introduced the Councillors in attendance.

R-3 Zone Setbacks – Mayor McGonigle stated that although not on the agenda, Council and staff have been made aware by builders and members of the public that the R-3 Zone setback changes introduced in November 2024 for single family dwellings and duplexes have been problematic. He stated that the APC has considered the matter and will make a recommendation for Council to consider at the May 13 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Emergency Preparedness, Planning for Heat Domes, Smoke and Wildfire - Eliza Ellison, FireSmart Coordinator discussed several initiatives that she was coordinating including Fire Smart Home Assessments that she can conduct for the public and if her recommendations are implemented there would likely be a discount on individual's home insurance. Eliza responded to questions regarding the evacuation routes out of Lake Cowichan. She also announced the Community Awareness Day to be held May 31 at the Fire Hall.

Sunscreen – A discussion occurred with respect to the initiative of Councillor Frisby regarding the use of sunscreens that do not have harmful chemicals and are safe for use in Lake Cowichan and the river. Mayor McGonigle reported that the implementation of a bylaw regulating the use of sunscreens was beyond the powers



of municipalities as this was in the scope of the regulatory authority of the Province, however the Town would be promoting the use of environmentally safe sunscreens within the Town.

Sewer Treatment Plant Update on Upgrades - Jas Sandhu, Superintendent, Public Works, and Engineering Services provided those present with an update on the progress of the grant funded sewer treatment plant and sludge pond upgrades and improvements.

Bear Resistant Refuse Bins – Mr. Sandhu informed those present that the Town will be installing and providing bear resistant refuse bins over the next several months.

Air B&Bs and Short-Term Rentals – Mayor McGonigle reported that the APC and the Town's Planner Brigid Reynolds had provided recommendations to Council regarding the Province of BC's regulation of Air BnB's and Short-Term Rentals. He stated that Council is currently reviewing the APC and staff information provided to them for consideration.

Uptown Parking Study – Mayor McGonigle stated that the consultants will be at the May 13 Committee of the Whole meeting to present the parking study and recommendations to Council.

ADJOURNMENT: The Town Hall meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm