

# V-MCC Advisory Committee: Implications / VMCC action on PSE 'tree wire project'

1st meeting

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, March 29, 2024

Meeting commenced 12.30pm, ended 1.45pm

## Moved and seconded:

- Democratic Rules of Order
- Committee Charter – as per the original approved motion passed at V-MCC Jan meeting
  - CHARTER: “To learn more about the Puget Sound Energy tree wire project, the implications of the project for island property owners, and make recommendations for any appropriate action that the V-MCC should take.”
- Jenny Bell nominated as Chair
- Art Chippendale nominated as Secretary
- 3 committee members as approved by the Chair will develop the discussion /white paper

## Other considerations

- Propose Meet 2: Monday 4 March 12.30pm. Meet 3: Thursday 7 March, 2024 12.30pm (Vashon Library -meeting room) -Agreed
- Consider Meeting time other than middle of day to increase accessibility

## General discussion

- Opened meeting with attendees seeking a general discussion of issue
  - An attendee has been tracking this issue for some time and spoke on the importance of implications beyond just property owners, that it was an issue for the whole island (loss of property rights, people signing what they don't understand, attendee's knowledge of KC spreadsheets showing massive loss of trees). Importance to whole island was generally agreed as accurate by attendees through show of hands. It was agreed by those in attendance that V-MCC taking it on as an issue made it clear that the issue was of importance to the whole Island. Bell described how first V-MCC meeting she attended, VMCC Board members had doubts that the topic was of interest to the whole island, but that since that time, the processes that occurred over the next 2 VMCC meetings resulted in the formation of this advisory committee – which is inherently an acknowledgement by VMCC that the matter was of importance to the whole island. It was agreed the committee would absolutely be examining the implications for the whole island and not exclusively property owners. Agreed it was not necessary to put in the Charter the wording 'implications for whole island' (not just property owners) – as it was inherent in the formation of the committee that it is a whole island issue that affects beyond just property owners. Simpler for VMCC processes if Charter is identical to original motion.

- Discussion of whether PSE had inherent financial benefit in moving poles/infrastructure onto private property. Discussion of 'flat fee' franchise fee agreement that will be renegotiated, value in easements, value in diminishing numbers of poles/infrastructure on ROW, discussion that access always required to ROW (PSE would still need to pay). clarify numbers of easements PSE has accrued (publicly available financial data – how is it noted in their financial records? Unrealized future assets), explaining how you don't have to be an owner to get benefit (eg an easement is similar to a lease – which most understand has value even though not an owner), discussion of Beachcomber article with quotes from PSE REA team and KC Franchise admin saying they don't get benefit, discussion that neither of those PSE/KC reps can make assessment of whether a benefit exists. Ongoing discussion that will reveal itself as the committee does its work – noted as an issue of importance. Many highly skilled individuals on the island will contribute to this discussion
- Discussion of number of people on committee. Discussion wanting to ensure those who want to contribute and be involved can. General agreement with proposal that numbers can be organic and shift if a demonstrated need is evident. The intended consultation process ensures inputs from whole community (interest groups, individuals etc -large memberships up to 800 of organized island groups that will ensure broad discussion and inputs) and experts can contribute without having the time/energy commitment of being 'on' the committee. Democratic Rules of order support process and its openness and transparency. VMCC attendees link Board and group into processes.