

*Maguelier - Oct 2010*

## **Getting a Housing Options Education**

The MI Housing Options Task Force is getting an education. We are reading the MI Local Trust Committee Official Community Plan. We are educating ourselves about the objective of the Islands Trust, about the statutory authority of the local trust committee, and about generally accepted planning principles. This is just the beginning for Task Force members, who include Dave Lindquist, Christie Meers, Pat Gasston, Mike Nadeau, Vicky Turay, Carol Peets, and me, Terrill Welch. As a Task Force, our job is to learn and listen before providing overall strategic advice to the Local Trust Committee on community housing needs.

The Task Force must identify land use requirements and issues related to addressing the present and future need for housing diversity on Mayne Island. We have set a course to complete this task before March 31, 2011. It sounds daunting doesn't it? But it is possible with your help.

By next month, we shall have an online location to post the Task Force Agendas and minutes. Here you will be able to find our workplan, and keep in touch with our progress around such things as when the Housing Options survey is available and when a day for community small group discussions has been scheduled.

A Task Force is only as strong as those who engage in helping to inform it about an issue. What can you do? For the month of October, please learn and muse along with us. Read the Official Community Plan with consideration for housing diversity. Ask yourself what you think the housing needs are at present? What might they be in the future? What needs to be considered – such as water, seniors, young families, preservation, year round rental, and rural life style? How do these factors impact the kind of housing options that will be proposed? Does the MI Trust Committee need to consider any new land use house options? Maybe things are adequate just as they are. This is what we want to find out.

Doesn't answering these questions sound like the most fascinating and useful way to sashay through a Mayne Island winter? Of course it does. At least it does for the seven committed Task Force members. We meet the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, at the Church House on Georgina Point Road. Ten minutes are set aside for public input at each meeting. Other opportunities for input will become available as the process continues to unfold. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

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MI Housing Options Task Force  
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