

**From:** "Team CROC" <teamcrocssi@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022 5:09:06 PM

**Subject:** Oct 11 LTC Meeting update and Trustee candidate answers

Hello again everyone,

After discussing in detail the Rogers cell tower site issues for 45 minutes, with a 10 minute presentation from Julian Clark on the matter, **the LTC members passed a motion to write to Rogers and ask that Rogers honour the LTC rescindment and restart the cell tower site approval process from scratch. The LTC intends to defend their original rescindment of the site approval and provide the valid reasons for their rescindment in this letter to Rogers.** They will copy ISED on the letter, as well.

All of the LTC members admit that this situation with Rogers and ISED is "a mess". We would encourage anyone who would like more detailed info to watch the recording of the LTC meeting which is usually available online within 48 hours.

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/event/ssi-ltc-2022-10/>

**On the matter of trustee elections, Team CROC reached out to all of the candidates via email with a summary of the whole cell tower debacle to ask these questions below to hear where they stand:**

**"If you are elected as a Trustee:**

1. Do you agree that Rogers must relocate their proposed tower site at least 500 metres from any full time residence, the distance established by the Advisory Planning Commission in SSIs' 2001 antenna siting policy, and the distance from homes for all of Rogers cell towers (currently six) in the Southern Gulf Islands?
2. Are you willing to review the considerable documentation on this matter presented to the Local Trust Committee over the past year?
3. In the event you determine Rogers asserted false claims and did not fulfill the protocols they claimed to have fulfilled:

- a. Are you willing to support the Concerned Residents of Canvasback in preventing Rogers from locating this tower in the Channel Ridge residential neighbourhood?
  - b. Do you support sharing with ISED all the valid reasons why the LTC rescinded the concurrence decision?
  - c. Do you support obtaining an injunction against Rogers from building this tower until such time (if ever) that a dispute process is triggered with the federal regulator and a decision is rendered against the LTC rescission?
4. Do you agree to review the antenna siting protocol adopted by the LTC in November 2021, and include in it site-distancing requirements that protect residential and environmentally sensitive areas?"

**The answers, per candidate, are listed below.**

//responses begin here

**From candidate Jenny McClean:**

"Dear Julian and others,

I definitely support the Concerned Residents of Channel Ridge in the situation with the lack of proper protocols in relation to the siting of the tower in the environmentally, culturally and residentially sensitive area that they have chosen for tower placement and are trying to continue proceeding with. I have done presentations to the LTC opposing the plan by Rogers ahead of their agreement with what Rogers asked for. I do appreciate that the trustees are attempting to work out another agreement. Because Rogers is a very powerful corporation, it seems that they do not feel that they need to listen to the community.

I will list off the points you have made in your letter to me and agree to them.

1) Yes, I agree that Rogers must relocate their proposed tower site at least 500 m from any full time residence following the Salt Spring Island Advisory Planning Committee's 2001 Antennae siting policy. And. I agree with

following Roger's own distances from homes that they have set up for all of their other cell towers in the Southern Gulf Islands.

2) Yes, I am willing to review considerable documentation on the matter presented to the LTC over the past year.

3) In the event that I determine that Rogers asserted false claims and did not fulfill the protocols they claimed to have fulfilled, I am willing to:

a) support the Concerned Residents of Channel Ridge in preventing Rogers from locating their tower in the Channel Ridge residential neighbourhood.

b) Yes, I would support sharing with ISED all of the reasons why the LTC rescinded the concurrence decision.

c) Yes, I support obtaining an injunction against Rogers from building this tower.

Sincerely,

Jenny McClean”

**From candidate Elissa Poole:**

“Dear Julian - your presentation at the Trust meeting was so impressive, and the situation absolutely is appalling. Of course I support your objections to the Rogers tower. It is outrageous, and I think Trustees were so focused on their pet projects (Bylaw 530? Vortex? Changing the mandate and the draft Policy Statement?) that they did not do their homework and the cell tower issue just slipped past them.

1. Do you agree that Rogers must relocate their proposed tower site at least 500 metres from any full time residence, the distance established by the Advisory Planning Commission in SSIs’ 2001 antenna siting policy, and the distance from homes for all of Rogers cell towers (currently six) in the Southern Gulf Islands? **YES**

2. Are you willing to review the considerable documentation on this matter presented to the Local Trust Committee over the past year? **YES**

3. In the event you determine Rogers asserted false claims and did not fulfill the protocols they claimed to have fulfilled:

a. Are you willing to support the Concerned Residents of Canvasback in preventing Rogers from locating this tower in the Channel Ridge residential neighbourhood? **YES**

b. Do you support sharing with ISED all the valid reasons why the LTC rescinded the concurrence decision? **YES**

c. Do you support obtaining an injunction against Rogers from building this tower until such time (if ever) that a dispute process is triggered with the federal regulator and a decision is rendered against the LTC rescission? **YES**

4. Do you agree to review the antenna siting protocol adopted by the LTC in November 2021, and include in it site-distancing requirements that protect residential and environmentally sensitive areas? **YES**

I wish you luck, and if I'm elected, I'll do my best to get that tower out of your life and the backyards of your neighbourhood.

Elissa Poole"

### **Response from Laura Patrick September 28, 2022:**

"If you are elected as a Trustee:

1. Do you agree that Rogers must relocate their proposed tower site at least 500 metres from any full-time residence, the distance established by the Advisory Planning Commission in SSIs' 2001 antenna siting policy, and the distance from homes for all of Rogers cell towers (currently six) in the Southern Gulf Islands? **The current approach to antenna siting, as with many things at Islands Trust, is being addressed in a reactive way. Even though I did not vote in support of a concurrence on the Rogers tower on Channel Ridge, I was duty bound to accept it. When the decision was revisited, the concurrence was withdrawn. I share the frustration of the Channel Ridge residents because I have no idea what happens next and that does not feel right.**

2. Are you willing to review the considerable documentation on this matter presented to the Local Trust Committee over the past year? **In my current role, I have read the extensive documentation on this matter.**

3. In the event you determine Rogers asserted false claims and did not fulfill the protocols they claimed to have fulfilled:

a. Are you willing to support the Concerned Residents of Canvasback in preventing Rogers from locating this tower in the Channel Ridge residential neighbourhood? **As I am a current Local Trustee, I am duty bound to maintain an open mind. I am frustrated by ISED, Rogers and the Local Trust Committee's handling of this matter. You have my commitment to do everything within my authority to understand next steps and to avoid this situation from happening again in the future.**

b. Do you support sharing with ISED all the valid reasons why the LTC rescinded the concurrence decision? **I have already done this.**

c. Do you support obtaining an injunction against Rogers from building this tower until such time (if ever) that a dispute process is triggered with the federal regulator and a decision is rendered against the LTC rescission? **I would like to understand all available options and next steps. If appropriate, I would support the Islands Trust obtaining an injunction.**

3. (s/b 4.) Do you agree to review the antenna siting protocol adopted by the LTC in November 2021, and include in it site-distancing requirements that protect residential and environmentally sensitive areas? **Communications technology is continuously changing, but for the foreseeable future, towers appear necessary. I would support a comprehensive review of the tower siting protocols on Salt Spring beginning with a comprehensive investigation into the application process of the Rogers tower on Channel Ridge. We need protocols that work for islanders and proponents. This cannot happen again."**

**Response from candidate Gary Gagné:**

"Hi Julian

You may not recognize my name but I was up there with you and Chris Anderson on my bicycle the last day that workers came to try to get through. I am totally and obviously in support of your action and if elected will do everything in my power to make this right. My long time friend Oona was instrumental in persuading me to run. And Chris and I have been trying to educate folks for decades on the negative effects of all this radiation on all forms of life. I hope you have found some time to learn more about all these sides effects.

You can help me by spreading the word about my campaign. I have a profile and banner on the Exchange and a couple of things in the Driftwood with more coming. It is a tremendous amount of work for my wife and I so I would very much appreciate your support. I am the only candidate running that cares about this issue. If you would like more info on financial support or links to articles please reply to this letter.

And thank you so much for all your fabulous work with your team in bringing attention to this serious issue.

Aloha

GaryG"

**From candidate Ben Corno:**

"Hello Julian,

Please excuse the lateness of my reply. It has been a real deluge of communications to involve myself in the campaign, and I am also sandwiching that in with the operation of my vegetable farm. If I am elected I will be hanging up my straw hat for four years to focus completely on the LTC, so I can promise prompt communication.

I visited with Diana, and her family and she showed me the existing tower and highlighted the size difference between that one and the proposed tower; she also mentioned that that tower COULD get even taller if it was deemed necessary.

I was pretty flabbergasted by both the proximity of the tower to your homes, and the history of how Rogers has gone about its work with the Islands Trust, and the citizens of Canvasback. My heart goes out to you because you are a small group up against a giant, and the Island community does not entirely understand the closeness of the tower, the standard protocol for siting a tower, and gets drawn into the narrative of your community being entitled. I think it is all a shame.

To answer your questions:

- 1) I absolutely agree.
- 2) Yes, I am and I would be happy to view it.
- 3) a) Yes I am. b) Yes, I am c) Yes I do
- 4) Yes, I do.

Thanks for the easy to answer questions. You have my full support.

Thank for reaching out,

Ben Corno"

*//responses end here*

We have not received any response (yet) from candidates Jamie Harris and Don Marcotte. We will absolutely share those responses if we do get them, soon.

Thanks again,

Team CROC