

383 Crescent Road West
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1J5

December 10, 2020

Dear Mayor & Council,

**Re: Comments from the Public
December 9th Regular Town of Qualicum Beach Council Meeting**

I am pleased to hear two members of Council suggesting delaying a large capital project(s) in response to covid to reduce the projected 3.5% tax increase. For the information of Council:

- Since 2013, taxes for our modest older home have increased \$807 (27%) and my Dad's large older home increased \$1,336 (38%).
- We have lost control of solid waste expenses by contracting to the RDN. QB tax payers face a 24% increase this year.

As I suggested during the budget discussion, Council may want to look at the upcoming by-election as an opportunity to seek community opinion to better inform Council decisions.

- *Do citizens approve of selling off public lands to fund parkland or large capital projects?*
- *Would citizens prefer a one time tax increase to pay for parkland or large capital projects?*
- *Do citizens want to spend \$3M (from reserves) for the roundabout at Memorial Avenue?*
- *Do citizens support spending \$5M for a plastic field?*

Other local governments are buying parkland in local neighbourhoods as it is deemed very important in building community connections. Ask your Planners!

Please make basic infrastructure a priority; safe sidewalks and repairs to eroding roads.

Beautification is the best economic development investment!

Council's decision to preserve and/or replace trees appears to be taking place on an ad hoc basis, seemingly based on the amount of public outcry. How is this fair? Requirements in a Tree & Vegetation Management Plan would apply to everyone therefore making it fair.

Where is the publicly funded Town of Qualicum Beach Climate Change Adaptation Plan? Preparing for droughts, floods and temperature increases takes much more than building one or two rain-gardens. It is about not moving water, trees and so much more.

Thank you for deferring the report on St. Andrews Lodge.

Sincerely,
Anne Skipsey

Lois Eaton
591 Tamarack Drive
Qualicum Beach, BC
V9K 1A7

December 10, 2020

Dear Mayor & Council,

Re: Comments from the Public – December 9th Regular Council Meeting

- I was encouraged to hear Councilor Westbroek speak of the tree plantings being done in our town to replace mature trees cut down. The Tree and Vegetation Plan would move these actions from ad hoc and unpredictable into a guideline that everyone understands and can follow. To apply the Tree and Vegetation Plan, it needs to be part of the budget.
- I will be interested to see the climate change actions the town has undertaken, once that report is available. Hopefully, they are enough to offset the enormous loss of carbon sequestered and carbon sequestering provided by the many mature trees cut in the last two years. Comparing Qualicum Beach's tree response to another municipality does not contribute to the climate change mitigation plan needed here in Qualicum Beach. Climate Change Mitigation needs to be part of the budget.
- I will also look forward to seeing the breakout of legal fees. These seem to have become a bigger part of this council's engagement.

Lois Eaton