ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
April 10, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Re Item 5a) District of Lantzville Zoning Bylaw 180, 2020 Amendment Bylaw #362, 2024

From: Jon Slater [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:26 AM
To: 'mayor.swain@lantzville.ca' <mayor.swain@lantzville.ca>
Subject: Lantzville FOG Zones

Dear Mayor Swain and Council
I understand that Council is reaching a decision on the FOG zone permanent Land Use Designation. I have just a couple of comments and would like to render my opinion on this matter, as follows in point form:

1. Broad landscape issues such as old growth preservation, forest products production, wildlife habitat protection etc are the mandate of the Provincial and Federal Governments, and in my view not the mandate of Municipal governments working within small pieces of land where these issues cannot be addressed satisfactorily. Also, I would point out that the Provincial Government is doing a pretty good job of balancing the needs of society on broad landscape designations within the 31, 000Km2 of this Island.
2. Well intentioned set asides now of young second growth fragmented stands for a future old growth status that may be a hundred years away (or more) may seem like a visionary exercise. However, it may also be the exact wrong thing to do around a Community. This community will grow, despite what you folks may believe currently. And climate change and fire incursion into populated areas may become a greater calling a hundred (or less) years from now. So MAYBE…..fuel free zones may become a higher value designation rather than protected FOG zones in order to protect Lantzville in the future. Old growth or fragmented forested corridors are actually comprised of combustible fuels (trees) that act as a conduit in a wildfire.
3. A true futuristic view of the land use within a small area like Lantzville would better serve the needs of society by leaving all options open. There are many needs from our forests…..FOG zones may be your favourite right now, but there are numerous others. Let's let the Province deal with this, it is clearly not a Municipal issue in my view.

I urge you to abandon this idea and get on with the job of making our Lantzville a better community. We have a lot of pressing needs that need your good work.

Best Regards

Jon Slater
[redacted]
Lantzville
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