

Meeting on Parking in False Bay

The Advisory Planning Commission will be holding a public meeting on Parking in False Bay area on Friday, May 6 at 7pm. Peter Luckham, the chair of the Lasqueti Trust Committee, will chair the meeting, which we would like to hold at the Arts Centre, because that's where most people live and where the problem is. If more people plan to attend that can comfortably fit into the Arts Centre, the meeting will be held at the Community Hall. We've scheduled the meeting to enable part-time Lasquetians to attend, and have given lots of notice in the hope that many of them will be able to come to the meeting.

If you plan to attend the meeting, please let APC secretary Peter Johnston know, so he can keep track how many people will be there. pjohnston@lasqueti.ca or 250-333-8785

Public Parking in False Bay

The Regional District, by way of our Director, Merrick, requested that the APC take a look at the parking situation in False Bay and make some recommendations.

The APC normally reports to the Islands Trust, and neither has jurisdiction over parking¹.

However, we agreed to hold a public consultation on the issue and make some recommendations in the hope that by engaging the community and having a broad discussion about the current situation, the problems it causes for people, and the range of possible solutions, we may find a made-on-Lasqueti outcome that we can live with and abide by. The alternative appears to be “imposed-by-authority” solutions, which may not suit us as well.

In preparation for this public consultation, the APC met and attempted to define the range of issues and problems with the parking situation in False Bay. To get the conversation going, we also brainstormed a range of potential solutions. It is important to understand that the ideas below are just a starting point for the conversation – we are trying to collect ideas and elicit input from the community and have not made any decisions or choices, nor do we endorse any of these proposals here – we’re waiting to hear from YOU first!

Objectives

To develop a set of recommendation for the Regional District with regard to regulating parking in False Bay such that:

- i) the rules / regulations are generally accepted and respected by the community;
- ii) the safety and accessibility of Main Rd. on “False Bay Hill” is improved for all its users; and
- iii) there is improved availability of short- to medium- term parking (under 30 days) in proximity to the Ferry dock.

¹ It could be argued that the scale of parking in False Bay makes it a land-use issue, for which the Islands Trust does have responsibility.

Terms of Reference

To facilitate a productive discussion, we hope to gain general agreement on some basic facts, and start with some clear definitions.

- Parking facilities within an easy walking distance of “downtown” False Bay and the ferry dock are restricted to:
 - “False Bay Hill” – the current 3 day parking area between the dock and the top of the hill - 32 spaces;
 - parking spaces by the hotel are on hotel property and are for hotel/restuarant/bar customers;
 - “ Remainder of Main Rd.” - from the end of the 3 day parking area to Pemberton Road (beyond Arts Centre) - 51 spaces (18 from top of 3-day parking to hardware store driveway; 16 from hardware store driveway to church parking lot driveway; 15 from church parking lot driveway to Pemberton Road);
 - South side of Main Road between Weldon Rd. and Arts Centre (parallel parking) - 15 spaces
 - “Weldon Rd.” – the section of Weldon Rd. between Main Rd. and the Forbes property; (beyond the boat ramp, Weldon Rd. is generally unsuitable for roadside parking.)
 - “Church Lot” – Pat maintains a pay-parking lot at the Church, across from the Arts Center
- Parking in these areas is important to all members of the community who use the Ferry and who frequent False Bay businesses.
- The “False Bay Hill” is the busiest stretch of road on Lasqueti, and should be safe for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.
- Different Lasqueti residents have different needs with respect to parking, and those various needs will often conflict. We should work towards solutions that satisfy as wide a segment of the Lasqueti community as possible.

Current Issues / Problems

The APC identified the following potential problems with the current parking situation in False Bay – let us know if we missed any.

- **Insufficient “hourly” parking** - residents wishing to frequent businesses in False Bay or do a pick-up / drop-off to the ferry often cannot find parking anywhere on False Bay Hill or Weldon Rd.
- **Insufficient short-term (daily) parking** - residents wishing to make a one- to several-day to Vancouver Island often cannot find parking anywhere on False Bay Hill or Weldon Rd.
- **False Bay Hill is constricted between Weldon Rd. and the Arts Center** - the curve in the road limits visibility and there is often barely room for two vehicles to pass, posing a safety issue for drivers, and especially pedestrians and cyclists along this stretch.

- **The South shoulder of False Bay Hill is meant to be a pedestrian path**, from the from the dock to the top of the hill, but is often blocked by parked cars
- **Uninsured and unused / abandoned vehicles in False Bay** are taking up limited parking spaces.
- **There is a general lack of adherence to current parking regulations** (with the exception of the “3 day parking” section, which is generally well-abided), and there is a complete lack of enforcement of these rules.
- **Contamination from road runoff** - leaking fluids from parked and idling vehicles run down False Bay Hill and directly onto the beach and into the bay on the North side of the ferry dock. Many children and families use this beach for recreation.

Some Ideas

The APC had a short brainstorming session and generated this list of ideas, none of which are being endorsed here - these ideas simply represent a starting point for the conversation – we want to hear YOUR ideas.

Increase Short-term Parking

- The section of the False Bay hill below Weldon Rd. (now the three day maximum zone) should become a one-day zone (24 hours maximum);
- The section from Weldon Road to the Arts Center should become a 3-day maximum zone.
- Parking for longer than three days should be on Weldon Road or on Main Road above the Arts Centre.

Limit Long-term Parking

- Set a maximum limit of 30 days for parking anywhere on public roadsides within the False Bay area.
- Vehicles parked on public roads for over 30 days would be considered abandoned and could be removed / impounded / barged off-island .

Improve Enforcement / Coercion

- Ticket, tow and impound offending vehicles. Possibly someone should be paid to do this (by PRRD).
- Request that the police make a random visit once per month to patrol and enforce parking regulation in the False Bay area.
- Photographs of offending vehicles could be posted publicly, on the website, as a method of public coercion.
- Volunteers could mark car tires to identify offenders. Offending vehicles could be marked publicly in some way as a method of public coercion.

Promote Ride Share / Taxi / “Valet” services

- People who will be off island for an extended period (more than a couple weeks) should be encouraged to get a ride to the ferry, use the taxi, or have a neighbour or someone else take their car home, or otherwise arrange for their vehicle to not be parked on the roadside.

- There may be an opportunity to operate a small business moving cars from False Bay to their home and back again when their owners are about to arrive.
- Conduct and publish research about the relative cost of maintaining a private vehicle on Lasqueti vs. using a local taxi service.

Improve Safety

- Parking along the North shoulder of Main Rd. from Weldon Rd. up to the next driveway (current Parallel Parking area) should be perpendicular parking limited to small (short) vehicles only. Vehicles should not crowd the paved surface, and certainly not overhang it. A painted yellow line on the edge of the pavement could help identify the limit.
- The entire South shoulder of False Bay Hill from the Ferry dock to the Arts Center should be for pedestrians and cyclists, and should be strictly no parking.

Encourage additional private parking

- Landowners in the area should be encouraged to consider providing pay parking on their properties.
- The Church should be encouraged to charge more for reserved parking spots to improve incentives for other private lots in the area