



District of Sechelt

"Heart of the Sunshine Coast"



September 18, 2007

File No.0360 - 2007

Committees / Community Groups

Sandy Hook Community Association,
5916 Skookumchuck Road
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A4

Attention: Bob D'Arcy, Secretary/Treasurer

Dear Bob:

RE: Sandy Hook Referrals

I apologize for the late response to your August 28, 2007 letter. I was on vacation until September 4th. On my return, the Council and Planning Committee agenda items have taken priority.

In response to the concerns raised in your letter, I would advise that the purpose of the referral process is to get technical responses from local government staff (ourselves, Regional District, senior levels of government and utilities such as hydro, gas telephone) and local advice. Community Associations are referred applications for local expertise or general comments that technical staff might overlook or not be aware of. (i.e. soil conditions, need for parks/walkways etc.) The referral responses are compiled and analyzed by staff when it prepares its planning report and recommendation to Planning Committee/Council.

I am not aware of your reference of the unique procedure for Sandy Hook that has been on record for years and a procedural requirement that all applications on Sechelt Inlet Road be referred to the Sandy Hook Community Association. While I am hesitant to refer every application up and down Sechelt Inlet Road to the Sandy Hook Association, I will make every effort to refer major development applications to the Association for comment.

In regards to delay in mailing referrals from our office there are times when the work load is excessive and although the referral bears a certain date, it doesn't necessarily leave this office on that same date. I checked our work schedule in and around the May 22, 2007 date that you reference and note that we were preparing for 3 public hearings at that time as well as orchestrating an inter office move. Your suggestion that we shift referrals to electronic from paper is a good one. I'm not sure that all ratepayer associations have the same capacity as the Sandy Hook Ratepayers Association. While we have attempted to keep the referral response time to a 30 day turn around we have made exceptions to allow ratepayers associations the opportunity to respond.

I trust that this letter responds to the concerns raised in your August 28th letter. If you have further concerns please call me.

Yours truly,

DISTRICT OF SECHELT

Ray Parfitt,
Planning Director