

Marius Miklea

From: John and Karen Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 10:25 AM
To: corporate
Subject: A reference of future planning post COVID 19

Dear Mayor and Council,

As I imagine you are quite distracted by the ongoing challenges created by COVID 19 and I want to start by thanking Mayor and council for the extra efforts to address this crisis.

I am sure also there is much thought being given to recovery from this crisis and I would like to suggest a parameter than may help Whistler recover strongly and in a more sustainable way.

I have written before with concerns about over development and over tourism of Whistler. During the OCP discussions there were others with similar concerns and the OCP noted this. Despite the inclusion of growth control I am still concerned that we lack a defined vision with metrics to measure progress and a plan to manage our growth to a sustainable level.

*“Overtourism describes destinations where hosts or guests, locals or visitors feel that there are too many visitors and that the quality of life in the area, or the quality of the experience has deteriorated unacceptably. Overtourism is the **opposite of Responsible Tourism** which is about using tourism to make better places to live in and better places to visit.”*

During 2018 and 2019 I believe we saw many examples where community infrastructure and capacities were tested by resort visitation. I found summer most revealing as crowds filled the village, most activities, trails and municipal parks became for me at least uncomfortably busy. Wildlife habitat is being unsustainably disturbed. So I would like to suggest that these years be analyzed in whatever way needed to define if perhaps the “busyness” of these years might be part of a definition of what peak activity would be in our plans for recovery and for the future going forward.

I will say in my opinion 2018-19 were uncomfortably busy and seeing nothing to apply any control of growth had COVID 19 not appeared things would have just gotten worse. (overtourism) Others might disagree what is too busy but my point is that we need to define what too busy is and have a plan to manage it. The expectations of all concerned should have some reference to what is planned for the future so we can all plan accordingly. Should a business plan for expansion or stay the course. Should a resident renovate or plan to move on.

I think we should make an opportunity of this COVID 19 set back to look at where we were a year or two ago and decide if that is the course we want to return to or if there is another option.

Again thank you for your service through this crisis. It must clearly be nothing like what you envisioned for your term of office but we think you have done your best to meet the challenge.

Yours truly,

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