Attachment: Strata Plan (3 Pages)

THIS EXAMINATION CONSISTS OF 7 PAGES (INCLUDING ATTACHMENT) PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE A COMPLETE PAPER

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW

FINAL EXAMINATION – APRIL 2023

LAW 442 Condominium Law

Section 1
Professor DC Harris

TOTAL MARKS: 100

TIME ALLOWED: 1.75 HOURS (105 MINUTES)

- 1. This examination consists of two questions, and there are two parts to the 2nd question. Answer ALL questions.
- 2. This is an open-book examination. You are allowed to use any printed or published material. You may not use any electronic material other than your laptop or notebook computer with ExamSoft Examplify software.
- 3. Put your exam code on the question paper and return the question paper at the end of the exam.
- 4. Students writing by hand:
 - a. write legibly on every second line of your exam booklet and on one side of the page;
 - b. do not put your name on the exam booklets; and
 - c. return all exam booklets, including blank ones, at the end of the exam.
- 5. Do not begin your exam until you are instructed to do so.
- 6. Good luck!

QUESTION 1 [50 Marks]

In 2475813 Nova Scotia Ltd. v Rodgers, 2001 NSCA 12, Justice Cromwell of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal described condominium as "the combination of several legal concepts" and one that incorporates "principles drawn from several different areas of law." Among the legal concepts and areas of law, Cromwell noted this:

The law relating to corporations is also of importance because the condominium is administered by the condominium corporation in which the unit holders are in a position analogous to shareholders.

Describe the extent to which the law relating to corporations is relevant in British Columbia's strata property regime. Is it descriptively accurate and normatively desirable to think of strata lot owners as analogous to shareholders? Would another analogy provide greater clarity and suggest a better model?

QUESTION 2 [50 Marks]

Sidney Island is one of the southern Gulf Islands located several kilometres off the coast from the town of Sidney. It is nearly nine square kilometres in size. The Sidney Spit National Park Reserve, part of the Gulf Islands National Reserve Park, occupies the north end of the island. The Sidney Island strata corporation occupies the south end.

In 2001, the owner-developer of the southern portion of Sidney Island deposited a strata plan, subdividing the area into 24 residential strata lots (see page 5). The lots occupied the perimeter of the island. The strata plan designated the large interior of the island and parts of the shoreline as common property.

In 2005, the owner-developer submitted an amended strata plan, eliminating the original strata lots and creating in their place 136 residential strata lots. The first sheet of the amended strata plan is shown on page 6, and a detailed view of strata lots 27-39 and 135 and 136 in the amended strata plan appears on page 7. These lots occupy what had been strata lots 1 and 2 and part of 3 on the original strata plan. Most of the strata lots created in 2005 were approximately one hectare in area. The interior of the island and parts of the shoreline remain designated as common property. Indeed, approximately 80% of the area of the strata corporation is common property.

A. **20 Marks**

Sidney Island lies within the North Pender Island Local Trust Area, and the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee acts as the regional government for the area. Under North Pender Island Local Trust bylaws, the minimum lot size is four hectares.

Explain the legal basis for how an owner-developer might be permitted to subdivide a parcel of land, creating strata lots that are smaller than the minimum lot size as set out in the regional bylaws. What additional information, if any, would you need in order to determine whether this development would meet this standard?

B. **30 Marks**

The Sidney Island strata corporation has worked for years with Parks Canada, which manages the Sidney Spit National Park Reserve on the north end of the island, to restore the indigenous ecology of the island. European settlement brought invasive species, including English Hawthorn, Scotch broom, and fallow deer. The English Hawthorn and Scotch broom have crowded out many indigenous plants and grazing by the large population of fallow deer has severely hampered efforts to restore the ecology. In fact, the fallow deer, which co-exist on the island with native black-tailed deer, have a significant negative impact on the island's vegetation and ecosystem.

In 2022, Parks Canada and the Sidney Island strata council signed an agreement that would allow Parks Canada officials to remove invasive plant species from common areas of the strata corporation and to eradicate deer, including the fallow deer and black-tailed deer. The removal of the invasive plant species would involve extensive digging and excavation on the common property. The deer would be eradicated primarily by aerial shooting and then by fenced zoning, using teams with trained dogs to help clear a fenced area in the common property before moving to another fenced area. The fencing would be temporary. Once the deer were removed, then the fences would be taken down and the black-tailed deer would be allowed to return to the island. Parks Canada would cover all the costs.

The agreement provides that its implementation is subject to ratification by the strata corporation.

The strata lot owners are divided over the agreement with Parks Canada. The strata corporation held a Special General Meeting (SGM) to discuss and to vote on the agreement. Of the 136 owners, 120 attended the SGM. They voted 62 in support of the agreement, 58 opposed.

The owners in support claim that this outcome is sufficient to ratify the agreement with Parks Canada to undertake the restoration work. In fact, they argue that no vote was required, at least in so far as the *Strata Property Act* is concerned, and that the strata council could have simply authorized the work on the common property. They point to the work that the strata corporation undertook in past years to manage and reduce the deer population, including targeted deer culls. In some years, the strata corporation hired professional cull hunters to reduce the deer population. In those years, the expense for

hiring the hunters was approved when the owners approved the budgets at annual general meetings, but there was no separate vote to authorize the hunt.

On the other hand, the owners opposed to the plan claim that the vote was inadequate to approve the agreement and to authorize the work. They point to the disruption that would be caused by the work to remove the invasive plant species. Some within the group are concerned about the loss of the deer and that the black-tailed deer may not naturally repopulate the island. The majority are concerned that the removal of the deer will eliminate recreational hunting opportunities. Under the strata corporation's rules, there is a 35-day open season for hunting deer on the common property, and most years the owners and their guests take approximately 100 deer. The owners who are opposed also speculate that the loss of recreational hunting will reduce the attractiveness of the island to many potential purchasers and thus the value of the lots.

Set out the legal basis for the positions of the owners in support of the agreement with Parks Canada and those who are opposed. What vote, if any, is required?

END OF EXAMINATION

(Altered)

Status: Filed

Attachment: Strata Plan

MARINE PARK

33101

s.L. **20**

present natural boundary and boundary as per Plan VIP 72610

Section 7 Section 6

Common Property Conservation Zone

Section 6

Section 5

Section 4

Section 3

Section 3

Section 2

Section 2

Section 1

Section 1 Section A

Section 11

Section 10

S.L.

21

Section 10

Section 9

Section 9

Section 8

23

Section 8

Section 7

Common Property
Conservation
Zone

VIP 22610

PROPERTY

Common Property

(access)

SALLAS OR SIDNEY ISLAND, NORTH SAANICH DISTRICT

SIDNEY

Plan

Section 11

Section 10

Section 10

Section 9

Section 9

Section B

Section 8

Section 7

Common Property (access)

Plan

Common Property (Pedestrian Access)

S.L. 18

17

16

15

LCP 15

Section 7

Section 6

Section 6

Section 5

Section 5

Section 4

Section 4

Section 3

COMMON

Section 3

Section 2

Common Property Conservation Zone

Common

Conservation'

Zone

LCP B

present natural boundary and boundary as per Plan VIP_72610

S.L.

present natural boundary and boundary as per Plan VIP 72610

13

Common Property

Conservation

LCP 13

s.L. 12

S.L.

11

Common Property

Conservation Zone

Common Property (Pedestrian Access

present natural boundary and boundary as per Plan VIP 7260

Title Act. Dated this 3/of MAY . 2001

Page

28

LCP 11

S.L.

10

9

-LCP 10

Section 2

Section 1

Common Property Conservation

PLAN INDEX

SHEET NUMBER

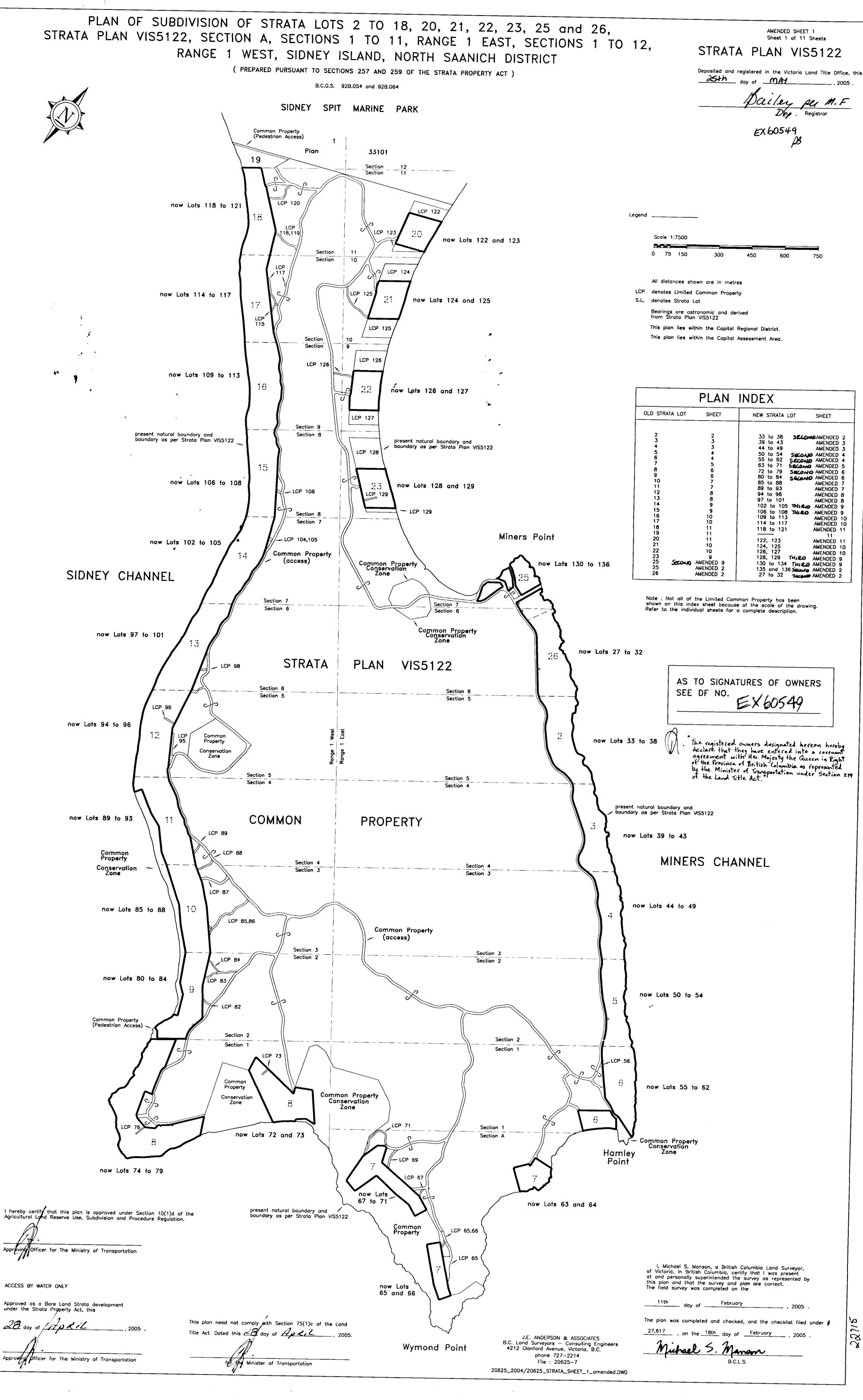
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SIDNEY CHANNEL

STRATA LOT

B.C.G.S. 92B.054 and 92B.064

SPIT



Page

2

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28

Attachment: Strata Plan

Status: Filed

Plan #: VIS5122 App #: N/A Ctrl #: (Altered)

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