

Minutes of Sustainable Gabriola Meeting
October 27, 2018, 3 p.m.

Facilitator: John Pierce

Note taker: Jan Pullinger

Next meeting Facilitator: Mary Wilson

1) Role of S.G. re engagement with new Island Trustees and RDN Director - Dyan

The group discussed how this might happen in support of our trustees and local governance. Island Futures has committed to organize a Town Hall meeting in spring 2019. The meeting was clear they wanted citizen-led meetings so the constraints of a formal Trust meeting would not impede the topics or breadth of conversation. The idea of bringing in outside voices/experts was discussed but no decision was made. Kees L. one of our Trustees-elect expressed concern about the Trust rules that limits the ability of our two trustees to meet together. He will research the rule and its impacts and bring back a clearer response.

2) Ways of funding community organizations - Richard

Richard suggest a way to raise funds from Area B would be to raise property taxes for 1) community organizations that serve many voters and which would benefit from a limited amount of stable, long-term funding and 2) community initiatives that would benefit from some project funding support. This would require a referendum.

Richard suggested that only non-profit organizations with wide popular support and that contribute significantly to the community be considered for long-term stable tax funding. This is not intended to replace normal fund raising activities, but provide some base funding for stability and matching funds for grant applications. Possible beneficiaries would be the Commons, GIRO, Community Hall, GAC, GALLT, PHD, Museum, and Mudge Citizens Society.

The idea was discussed and considerations of how much each 1% would raise, about the impact on owners of larger or small properties and a broader discussion around funding vehicles including the Nanaimo Foundation which has an "envelope" for Gabriola monies and projects. Some participants liked the idea of breaking the idea into three parts: 1) a community fund - do we want it? 2) what gets funded? and 3) who holds the funds and who decides on allocation.

3) Affordable Housing report - Nancy

There is now an emerging collaboration of two members from the co-op housing group, two from the affordable housing group, and two from the employers' housing group to work and lobby governments together.

Nancy provided an update on progress on affordable housing. The Society is applying for charitable status which is a requirement for grants from B.C. Housing. This involved a change in the Society's mission statement to fit CRA's charitable status requirements. The Society will be fundraising to purchase land which will then make it possible to partner with B.C. Housing. The Housing Society is looking at land to purchase and a consultant who may help them with the design of the housing. They are looking at densities and styles of affordable housing for Gabriola as well. The density bank, rent supplements, and the need to change the definition of "affordable housing" in the OCP were discussed. At present, Fed. Government won't look at funding housing for moderate income families. They are looking at how the LTC looks at Phase 2 of the housing review options.

The Society's vision is to have the charitable status in mid 2019 and a housing project built in 2021.

Tobi raised the issue of a bylaw changed that is needed to allow tiny homes on single home properties. She reported that a number of communities have either made such a change or are looking at it. This includes Nanaimo, Saanich, Victoria, Smithers and Maple Ridge. She also reported briefly about the Saturday meeting on Gabriola with Gord Baird who gave a presentation on grey water, rain water collection, composting toilets.

There was a brief discussion about rental supplements. PHC deals with that issue currently.

4. Gabriola Co-op Network - Jan

The Gabriola Co-op Network is now incorporated as a Community Service Co-op (not-for-profit). The intention of this co-op is to unite, represent and serve co-ops operating on Gabriola and to foster the Co-operative, grass roots, community owned economy. There are presently 10 co-ops operating in part or totally on the island: Agri co-op, Energy Co-op, Investment Co-op, Mid Island co-op, Gabriola co-op Childcare, Co-op Network, Left Hand Media co-op, Coastal Community Credit Union, VI Library, Home Hardware. Some are second tier co-ops which means the members of the co-op are enterprises or organizations rather than individuals. Examples are VI Library and Home Hardware.

All co-ops are built on a set of [values and principles](#) which the International Co-operative Alliance in Geneva is charged with holding. One is co-operation among Co-ops. VanCity provided funding, training and support to get our three new co-ops going and to build our first website (in progress). The G.C.N. is applying for a grant from Co-operators Insurance.

5. Invest Gabriola (incorporated as the Gabriola Investment Co-op) - Fay

Invest Gabriola (incorporated as the Gabriola Investment Co-op) is up and running and **will be launched Monday November 5th, 6 p.m. at the Arts and Heritage Centre**. All are welcome to come and learn about this co-op and how it will keep investment money here on the island. Surveys

of Gabriolans indicated most would want a modest return on their money - 2% perhaps, and that they are more concerned about the funds advancing the greater good of the community. \$5000 is currently the maximum an individual can invest. There are several other Investment Co-ops in BC already and they are working well.

There was some discussion about the overhead costs and the use of volunteers.

6. EmPower Gabriola (Incorporated as Sustainable Energy Coop of Gabriola) - Steve

This co-op will also **be launched at an open house at the Gabriola Arts and Heritage Hall November 5th, 6p.m.**

The purpose of this co-op is to provide Gabriolans with an opportunity to use sustainable energy systems with the aim of reducing greenhouse gasses. The co-op has four initiatives:

Solar installs to continue to the work of Gabe Energy but as community projects - eg a solar installation at the Community Hall and elsewhere that is suitable for panels.

Continue Island Futures' work with heat pumps, air-to-air. The Co-op is looking at expanding that to air-to-water heat pumps for household hot water or home heating.

Continue Island Futures' work making biodiesel from Gabriola restaurants' used deep fryer fat. Currently the busses run on biodiesel made on Gabriola as do a few cars. Fay currently makes *Glean Soap*, another level of recycling, from the glycerin byproduct of the biodiesel.

Become a distributor for Goal Zero products which are portable solar panels and batteries suitable for powering small items, use during a power outage etc.

Members of the co-op will be able to purchase items from the co-op at a lower cost. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of solar panels for electric cars.

7. Tool Library: Patsy

It is up and running! Lots of donations and, just as important there will be demonstrations of how to use various tools. Please come and see or DO demos.

Owners of a large house up behind GIRO are selling and want to donate much of the contents of the house to Gabriolans. Patsy will receive tools appropriate for the Tool Library and asked if someone from S.G. would meet with the owners when they come up from the U.S. next week re the rest of the household goods except appliances. Fay and Jan will talk to the seller. Richard will talk to Randy Lynch re auction, Tobi volunteered to help.

It was suggested the funds be donated to the Investment Co-op

8. Opioid Dialogue on Nov 15th. Dyan

A Gabriola Health and Wellness Collaborative project. A social worker applied for funding from the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (formerly CARBC) and received it. There will be two dialogue sessions and evening session with dinner and a presentation by Claire Dineen, from AIDS Vancouver Island. And a NVC facilitated session with Collaborative members from 1:00 to 4:00 on November 15. Note: the collaborative is made up of representatives from a wide variety of Gabriola community organizations with an interest in community health and wellbeing in its broadest definition. There are 20 spaces for a community facilitated NVC dialogue and 4 seats remain available. Dyan encouraged SG members to reach out to people with lived experience of opioids who may want to participate in the evening session.

For more information contact Angela Pounds at: gabriolasocialwork@gmail.com

9. Posting agenda/minutes on the website:

A new part-time employee of Island Futures, Pat, was introduced and welcomed. She is posting items to the website and going through it to ensure it is current. A brief discussion of newsletters, facebook bulletin board use, and mailing lists, including SGs and Gabriola Health and Wellness.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

Next meeting is November 25th, 3pm, upstairs in the Commons. Mary Wilson to facilitate.

There will not be a meeting in December.