

**Minutes of Sustainable Gabriola Meeting**  
**February 24, 2019, 3 p.m.**

Facilitator: John Peirce

Minute taker: Tobi Elliott

Next meeting Facilitator: Tobi Elliott

Next meeting Minute taker: Fay Weller

**Process for minutes:**

- Minute taker emails draft minutes to attendees and then posts final minutes by sending them to Pat Tromp for addition to the web site. Minute taker becomes facilitator next month, then takes a break. Next minute taker comes from list of facilitators, which Bob will update and post to web site.

John opened the meeting with an acknowledgement that we are meeting on the unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

**1. Update on Housing Advisory Planning Commission (HAPC) for Islands Trust**  
(Nancy)

- a. Concerned that nothing has come back from IT re: representatives for the HAPC, and there is no meeting in March due to Trust Council scheduled. Will email Sonja.
- b. Kees Langereis replied that IT staffing is an issue. Some projects lagging because they are losing planners and can't find replacements

**2. Community Discretionary Fundraising through taxes – *what further discussion do we want?*** (Richard S)

Richard again presented the idea to ask the community to vote on property tax increases to go toward a discretionary fund that would supplement diverse community projects. He is looking for a support vote within SG to start the process.

a. Discussion ensued:

- how much goodwill would there be to support an enterprise that wasn't specifically named?
  - could it be used to garner matching funds?
  - what agency or organization would hold the funds? Vanessa would check with staff whether there is a model that is already being used by one of the RDN areas.
  - how to determine the direction of tax \$\$, where they would go to and when?
- Qualification and scope. Ongoing support vs. one-time support?
- our taxes are very low compared to other places. The RDN can receive charitable donations.

- could this be a topic of a town hall? Get some input earlier, hard to develop a survey without some sense of the reaction. Suggestion of an open space meeting where people can choose the projects they want to support and discuss.

- b. Group was asked if anyone would be willing to take on the question to develop it into a proposition, or whether it should be adopted as an idea to explore at the town hall. No takers.
- c. Fay suggested the idea could be put in the March SG newsletter to advertise for interest.

### 3. Community Investment Co-op call for Expression of Interest (Fay)

Fay passed info sheet re: call for applications from entrepreneurs interested in business loans.

- a. Background: InVest Gabriola now has a fund of \$50,000. Loans would be in \$ 8,000 – 12,000 range (on SSI the highest loan investment was \$15,000). Advisory group will look at proposals and develop business plan and terms of loan. Aiming at 3-year payback generally (max). Interest rolls together end of the year, look at expenses, then offer to pay back to shareholders and they may get dividends or vote to roll it back into the fund. Aim is 2% back to shareholders.
- b. Plans: 2 drop-in info sessions at library, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 5:30 - 7 pm and Wed, 6<sup>th</sup>

### 4. Update on recent BC Ferries announcement re: restored sailings (Steve E)

- a. NDP had commissioned [Blair Redlin](#) to conduct overview of BC Ferries, which was released this week. Friday FACs chairs had a call with the minister, and she announced at the same time they were asking BC ferries to restore some (40%) of the sailings that had been struck in 2014. [We have been told that the restored sailings should be in effect by May 1<sup>st</sup>.](#)
- b. [Redlin](#) report: more emphasis on electric/hybrid ferries, want to see more construction done in Canada, more incentives for people not to take cars on ferries.
- c. FAC meeting further with BC Ferries to learn more about how it will unroll. [Our](#) FAC has asked to have all the weekend, early afternoon sailings to be restored year-round, and very early sailings, [e.g. 05:15 on weekdays.](#) [The FAC intends to give Gabriolans a chance to express which sailings they would like to see restored.](#)

### 5. Update on Village Way proposal (Steve E)

Jim [Ramsay](#) & Steve met with Vanessa to get feedback on VW proposal. Vanessa reported that MOTI is open to the idea of having regional areas have non-structural roads developed. Adding an actual curb made a difference to the discussion.

- a. VW Plan is for the north side from corner all the way to Tin Can alley: 0.9 m pavement, then curb + .3 m gravel + .2 m path. Gives it extra protection. Paved to the professional building, then gravel.
- b. The meandering path that had been planned is all the same, no more trees will be removed, the difference is the curb, water flows, the pavement. They are considering asphalt (cheaper).
- c. Win: we will have a safe, mobility-accessible pathway for the village core. Drawings are out with more changes.
- d. Don't know how we will pay for it as CWF can't be used for that (no double dipping from Fed-Prov, they are 2 different funds). So V will be lobbying at the UBCM to see it allowed. Most likely it will be approved: if one hand of the province (MOTI) approves it, then we assume the other hand (funding) will.
  - i. Steve: thought the \$ had been approved from the CWF for the path, but it had not been allocated.

#### 6. Nanaimo Airport Expansion (Bob McK)

- a. Bob presented his findings of the planned expansion of the Nanaimo airport (SNC-Lavelin) to likely expand the existing runway for heavy bodied planes, enlarged fuelling facility & small hotel.
  - looking at the circle routes, Nanaimo would be a convenient place for long-haul flights to land and re-fuel
  - airport land owned by the Feds, outside RDN jurisdiction
  - stakeholder process underway currently: Cedar, Ladysmith, S. Nanaimo, etc. Gabriola is not on the list even though the flight path is literally right over our heads
  - the planes have increased in numbers and are lower
- b. Bob asked if the RDN could add Gabriola to the list of stakeholders at the next meeting, but Vanessa said it was too late to add to the agenda for discussion. She will look at how to get us added as a stakeholder after next meeting.

#### 6. Islands Trust Quarterly Meeting on Gabriola Mar 12-14

Nancy suggested it's an opportunity to show up and present at the town hall session, the agenda is published one week ahead.

- a. Kees: Trust Council in process of finalizing the budget and continuing the discussion on the strategic plan for the next 4 years. It's important to review what happened in the last 2-3 terms, the topics, what was achieved. What focus will the Trust have over the next 4 years? Trust policy statement hasn't been reviewed in 20 years, which involves how the Trust Act will be interpreted and guided in the future.

- b. Tobi wants to work on a delegation to call for speeding up affordable housing process.
- c. Fay: [Salt Spring is](#) concerned that climate change is not on the agenda but was told by Trustee Scott it will be on the agenda.
- d. Delegations like GERTIE had been asked in previous years to present their work or initiatives: are the Trustees thinking about who they might want to feature from the Island. SG to go?

7. **Town Hall Meeting** – *Format, structure and perhaps topics* (Tobi)

- a. John: purpose was to clarify some of the thinking for around SG sponsoring community conversations that emerged from meetings last year and in the campaign.
- b. Report back from Committee: we had a difficult time with the concept of “Town Hall” meetings because they have been so polarizing and divisive in the past. The term itself needs to be unpacked.
- c. Additionally, the committee felt it necessary to discuss SG’s organic culture of consensus and decision-making that had evolved over time, which was perhaps not understood by some of the new members and causing tensions. Dyan had undertaken to explain some of SG’s history so we could understand the process we were engaged with.
- d. [Ewout](#): it’s not clear to everyone here what SG really stands for and how it’s organized. For it to sponsor something like this, we need to know what we are all about.
- e. Fay: we’ve actually had lots of conversations about that, what we need to do is communicate what we are to the greater group. Rather than going through a process of who we are again.
- f. Ideas for consideration re: articulating SG’s goals and process:
  - An article in the paper about SG's goals and projects to better explain to those who wonder/don’t know about Sustainable Gabriola?
  - Revisit the wording on website. Is there sufficient explanation of what SG “is”?
  - Could it be useful to write a simple: “what to expect at an SG meeting” for newbies? Or perhaps have one of the mature members take newcomers out for coffee and go through the history so they understand how to engage?

**Potential Format for Town Hall/Dialogues/Conversation Series**

Katharine asked us to imagine what activities would take place at such an event. The following was suggested:

- **Introduction** – storytelling icebreaker of some kind - why are we here?
  - possibly get individuals to share their personal interest in community dialogue

- idea: video of a “town hall” that does NOT work - use comedy to break the ice and get us discussing ground rules
- **Break out** into groups at tables to determine guiding principles/values
  - bring back to main group and share
- **Break into new** (different) groups to brainstorm format or model ideas
  - different strong elements will emerge from each group
- Use the best ideas to come up with a **Gabriola-Style Town Hall model**
- Together, using dot-ocracy or some other creative way, brainstorm the **list of topics** that could be addressed in future dialogues.
  - Ask: are there organizations critically involved with this work we need to check in with? Dyan made the point that SG never steps on the work of other organizations or do the work for them
  - If YES, we go to those groups and ask if this process would be helpful to them.
  - if NO, we make a short list and decide on the topic and venue and format for the 1st community dialogue

g. Discussion:

Katherine: if people own the process, they will be responsible for it.

Bob: I like the idea of “Community Conversations”, but not the idea of SG advocating something. Maybe better: “Sustainable Gabriola has identified the need for a discussion series...”

Linda: This idea of a workshop in ‘how do we have difficult conversations’ would invite a certain type of person who would be nice to engage with.

Attachments:

1. List of attendees (w/o email)
2. Ideas around Dialogues or “Community Conversations” Series