

Sustainable Gabriola

Minutes of April 28th, 2019 meeting

Present: Michelle M., Kim K., Mary W., Steve E., Alice M., Suzi H., Fay W. (chair), Bob M., Richard S., Tobi, E.

1. Climate Change (Michelle)

Proposed a Climate Action Hub – focused on education and awareness

Issues: Transportation, Water, Energy, Food, Awareness/education, Waste, Housing, Lifestyle, Health and Wellness.

Vancouver has declared a Climate emergency: plan to move off fossil fuels by 2050, Nanaimo will declare an Emergency tomorrow

Community organizations that might be on board: PHC, Commons, GIRO, GERTIE, Growls, GCN (and other co-ops), Sustainable Gab., GALTT, Community Hall, Recreation Soc., Island Futures.

Kim: Bowen Transition Group – Guide to green living on Bowen, was a failure because nobody did anything about it.

Federal money available for communities, Richard: local funding from a tax levy

2. Confronting Challenging Issues (a.k.a. Town Hall) (Tobi)

First session is on May 26th: this will be a workshop where we co-create a way to have community conversations and make up a list of topics to be discussed at future events.

Suggested names: Gabriola Talks, Gabriola Solutions... (please send other suggestions to tobi.lee.elliott@gmail.com)

3. Islands as Systems (Alice)

May 28th to 31st field trip for Fielding Graduate Univ. (a not for profit U, no campus) with a social justice focus. A retreat to be held on Gabriola (20 students from all over the US, Canada, Croatia, Netherlands + 4 faculty) Participating groups include Museum, First Nations, GALTT, field trips, stewarding, making, feeding, healing. What are people doing to mitigate their impact? Sustainable Gabriola may be involved from 11 to 3 on Friday the 30th. Possible use of GERTIE – Steve will ask.

4. Co-op updates (Steve, Bob, Fay)

Energy Co-op: Heat pumps continue to sell, Solar PV initiative is continuing discussions with local organizations (GIRO, Clinic, Rollo, HOPE). Bio-diesel starting up again after a winter shut-down

Investment co-op – soon to make an announcement about the first 2 projects that will be funded.

5. Airport (Bob)

Plan to expand Nanaimo airport runway (involves taking land out of ALR) to handle larger aircraft, upgrading fueling capacity. Also expanding hotels and other infrastructure to make Nanaimo a hub.

Someone in Parksville is challenging the process based on the land being in the ALR.

6. FAC meeting with BCF (May 13th, in the afternoon at the GAC – look for an announcement in the paper)

7 Broom bashers

Looking for people to take responsibility for a local area. Should get in touch with Lou Skinner at GALTT or e-mail Kim at: kasasian@shaw.ca