

# Sustainable Gabriola

Minutes of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting

Present: Nancy (chairing), Dyan, Janet, Steve, Greg Blanchette, John, Hal Gibbard, Deb, Monica Loew, Jan Moore, Judith, Ken Skillings, Gina Skillings, Kees, Patsy, Suzi, Fay, Bob.

**1. Action items from last meeting:** We are missing the minutes from March and April 2019. If you have them please send to Suzi to post (suzi@notforgeeks.ca)

**2. Gabriola Talks:** The next GT session will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 1 pm, and will be on climate change – specifically on how Gabriolan individuals, organizations, and businesses can reduce their climate impacts, and how we would like our elected officials to respond to the climate emergency. There may be subsequent GT events on climate change depending on the outcome of this one.

There will be a GERTIE bus, and the route and times are as follows:

Hemlock mailboxes	11:25
Twin Beaches	11:30
Ferry	11:35
Harrison at Pat Burns	11:40
Village	11:50
Tashtego turnaround	12:00
Barrett at North	12:10
Silva Bay	12:20
Price at South	12:25
Community Hall	12:30

The bus will leave the Community Hall when the event is over and will return everyone to their driveways, or to the stops above.

Here are some links to information on Gabriola Talks events.

<http://sustainablegabriola.ca/gabriola-talks-may-2019/>, <http://sustainablegabriola.ca/gabriola-talks-the-climate-crisis/>, and <https://www.facebook.com/GabriolaTalks/>

### 3. Learning opportunities

Fay announced the formation of the Blue Heron Learning Society, which will be based at 110 McConvey Rd., and will be dedicated to advancing education on climate change and sustainable living by conducting ecological, sociological and applied research. The first learning opportunity may be a course on sustainable and zero-impact buildings. Information at: <https://education.living-future.org/#/online-courses/a0154e0e-dc34-4884-bfdf-a7d91fd5eeefe>. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Fay at: [fayweller@shaw.ca](mailto:fayweller@shaw.ca)

#### **4. School Strike for Climate**

Steve announced that the next global “School Strike” will take place on Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>. It is expected that there will be an event on Gabriola involving students and adults.

#### **5. Rainwater collection for multi-unit dwellings**

The BC government’s discussion document on rainwater harvesting for multi-unit dwellings and for commercial operations is now available. (A copy is attached to the minutes.) John said that some of the proposed requirements appear to be quite onerous, such as the need for a special type of metal roof, 2 disinfection systems (e.g., UV and chlorination), aeration in storage tanks, and frequent testing.

John will be commenting on the document and will be circulating his submission to the SG list.

#### **6. Land Trust**

Steve reminded the group that the Gabriola Community Land Trust will be looking for a representative from Sustainable Gabriola sometime in the next few months.

#### **7. Continuous Learning and Reconciliation Hub**

Dyan and April Vanini have been investigating the potential for making Gabriola Elementary School into a “community school”. This has been attempted several times before without success. They are suggesting that this will likely be more successful if the term “community school” is avoided, and that the emphasis be placed on continuous learning for the community and reconciliation and engagement with First Nations. Dyan noted the current SFU Land-based Learning project that is underway at the school. She suggested that the term “Reconciliation and Land-based District and Provincial Demonstration Site” could be used. This is an initiative of the Health and Well-being Collaborative.

#### **8. Housing Advisory Planning Commission**

The objective of the HAPC is to advise the Local Trust Committee on issues related to the “Gabriola Housing Options and Impacts Review Project”, which is particularly focused on the question of affordable housing on Gabriola. Steve reported that the HAPC has now met twice and has completed making revision suggestions to the brief provided by the LTC. That will go back to the LTC in September. The next steps in the process are to formulate a community engagement strategy (this fall and winter) and then to start the process of getting community feedback in the spring.

#### **9. Website**

Suzi is working on changes to the Sustainable Gabriola website (<https://sustainablegabriola.ca/>). The question arose as to what are the goals of the website, and some suggestions include: communicate information about SG to the community, provide a list of initiatives taken in the past, provide information about groups and businesses doing sustainable things on Gabriola, keep a record of meeting notes, and provide a method for contacting SG.

**Next meeting:** September 29<sup>th</sup> after the Gabriola Talks event at the Community Hall.