

Sustainable Gabriola meeting minutes Oct 26, 2019

1. **Guidance for treatment of rainwater harvesting – draft provincial guidelines**

John Peirce, as someone who has installed rainwater systems, read his comments on the guidelines, noting that the requirements in some cases exceeded national standards, and could be a barrier to the use of rainwater for potable purposes, and recommending revisions. (John's full comments attached.)

2. **Gabriola Talks**

Approximately 120 people attended the climate crisis meeting September 29. Working group (Dyan, Katharine, Steve, Tobi, April) will be meeting next week to discuss. Approximately 100 commitment cards were received. More info will be posted on the website. Next large meeting will likely include a strategy focus.

Steve Earle's Powerpoint was a useful intro to the issue. He will submit it for the website.

Noted that the original purpose of Gabriola Talks was to discuss how we as a community talk about contentious issues; it is important not to lose this focus. Noted also that there will be some contentious discussions within the climate change discussion, since there are very different ideas about what should be done.

Two resources that might be helpful for the strategic discussion on climate (provided by Stuart Wulff after the meeting):

- a. A TED talk entitled "100 solutions to reverse global warming" in which Chad Frischmann of Project Drawdown talks about specific strategies to not just slow down climate change, but eventually to reverse GHG emissions and begin annually reducing GHGs in the atmosphere. It is a good intro to comprehensive strategies for addressing climate change that actually rates by effectiveness 100 strategies. See: https://www.ted.com/talks/chad_frischmann_100_solutions_to_climate_change/transcript?language=en#t-481948
 - b. The website of Project Drawdown, where Frischmann works and which has more detail re the 100 strategies plus links to various useful resources. See: <https://www.drawdown.org/>
Carbon Drawdown list might be helpful/useful for this.
- ### 3. **Housing Advisory Planning Commission (HAPC)**
- This committee of local trust committee will hold a public meeting Nov 4. Objective: advise the LTC on how to facilitate affordable housing projects on Gabriola within the Islands Trust mandate.
- ### 4. **Gabriola Health Report Card**
- Gabriola Health & Wellness Collaborative's goal is to improve health in the community – broadly defined. The Collaborative has received funding from the Gabriola Health Care Foundation to create a community health report card. Money will be used to hire a research assistant and a graphic artist to help with the design. (Ad will be circulated). Next steps: Emails will go to the Collaborative membership, and ideally the Sustainable

Gabriola list, to ask people what indicators should be included. Two questions: What data is important? Do you have access to said data? Second: Do you belong to an organization that has data that could be reported annually?

5. **Website**

Photos have been received, and the process of redesigning the website has begun. Focus will be on making the content more apparent and easy to access. Automatic sign-up has been added.

6. **Bus coalition**

The bus coalition is a Gertie initiative involving several communities that have, or are working on getting, a community bus system. There is now a key person in the Ministry of Transportation identified as responsible for community buses. The position's scope includes looking at funding models, connections with BC Transit, and regulatory changes. Goal of the coalition is to see community buses funded in the same proportion as urban buses (BC Transit). Urban areas typically 60/40; here it's 100% local. Currently community buses are under Commercial Transportation regulations; this has an impact on things like standees. There are also insurance cost issues.

7. **Healthy transportation**

Those interested in helping with a community open house on this issue should contact Scott Colborne. The open house is tentative scheduled for early December. (Information received after the meeting.)

8. **Emergency Plan**

Vanessa is beginning to plan an open meeting on emergency preparedness for early December. The goal is to discuss both individual and broader (governmental) preparedness. The Gabriola Energy Co-op is also planning a public meeting mid-November (detail added later: November 23rd at 1 pm at the library) to discuss preparation for power outages, etc. Area B will be in the evacuation route planning process next year. Basic approach is always individual preparedness, no matter the scope of the disaster.

9. **Nuclear weapons**

At the moment there is no active peace/anti-nuclear movement on Gabriola. The movement was very active in the 1980s/90s. This issue seems to receive no attention, though individuals may be concerned. The last federal election saw no attention, though the Union of Concerned Scientists still show the Doomsday clock at two minutes to midnight. Let us not forget this is an issue. Noted that the economic system is responsible for many interlocking issues, including nuclear weapons and the climate crisis.

10. **Housing**

Housing Society will hold a community consultation Saturday, November 16, 1-3 at the Community Hall. Thinking and planning will be presented for the 24 rental houses in the project for the property on Paisley Place. Gabriolahousing.ca has all the info on the project so far. Next step: application to the local trustees for rezoning and approval of the project. The meeting on the 16th is the community information meeting that is part of this process. Hope to submit the application by January. An impartial notetaker will note community questions and responses. Focus of the project is on low income

households; zoning changes will be required, and density issues will need to be addressed.

There are 2,000 year round households on Gabriola; about 1700 are owned, 350 are rental. Of the 350 rental households, 210 recorded that the housing situation is unaffordable, or insecure, or unsafe. (Data from 2016 census).

11. Questions to elected officials:

Vanessa – brief update on change to recycling/garbage pickup. How will mechanized trucks work with rough Gabriola roads? Vanessa reports that it is a system used in other rural areas. Workers have been asked to identify areas of concern. Big impetus is worker safety. Waste worker injuries are 200% above other fields. Plan will not be implemented for a year. There was some community consultation, but only 31 people from Gabriola participated.