

Minutes of Sustainable Gabriola Meeting
January 26, 2020, 3 p.m.

Facilitator: Judith Roux
Minute taker: John Peirce
Next meeting Facilitator: John Peirce
Next meeting Minute taker: Tobi Elliott

Present: See attached list

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

The meeting started with a discussion about what to have on the agenda. All topics suggested were on the agenda and discussed in the order presented.

1. Gabriola Housing Society. Nancy Hetherington Peirce reported that their proposal for a 24 unit Affordable Housing Project was submitted to the Local Trust Committee on Jan. 15. Staff have promised to have the review completed by mid-March for review at a possible special LTC meeting in mid-March or at the April meeting. All are working towards a Sept. deadline for application to BC Housing for major funding for construction and operation. The further the project has proceeded in receiving local approvals the better will be its chances for funding in the Fall.
2. Gabriola Automotive closing. Janet Vickers raised the issue wondering if there was anything to be done to help avoid closure. In discussion the point was made that this is a private business matter between Gabe Auto and the landlord.
3. Loneliness. Greg Lee raised the topic as timely and pointed out that there is now a Deputy Minister of Loneliness in the UK. Discussion centered on the work of Dyan Dunsmore Farley with the Gabriola Health and Wellness Collaborative on issues related to suicide, particularly loneliness.
4. Change in Policy regarding review of Communications Towers. Kees Langereis pointed out that the old policy requiring review of most changes has been changed to follow a new Islands Trust policy that is much less stringent in requiring reviews when changes are made. Concern was expressed about dependence on the Federal Code 6 of Health Canada in terms of health concerns because those standards are seen as very lax by some. **Action: Bob McKechnie to review with Kees and report back to the next SG meeting.**
5. GERTIE. Steve Earle reported that GERTIE carried its 100,000th passenger last week – Steven Levesque.
6. Gabriola Talks. Steve Earle reported that the next session of “Gabriola Talks” will be on Sunday, March 8 at the Community Hall. The overall theme will be “Creating strategies to collectively reduce the impact of climate change”, Within this overall theme there will be three areas of focus:
 - a. Transportation
 - b. Food Security
 - c. Packaging

- Registration in advance for this next session of Gabriola Talks will be required.
7. Red Bin Program for Fire Smart Program. Suzi H described the Red Bin program of the RDN. This program provides a small red dumpster to receive wood waste generated by applying Fire Smart recommendations to residential properties. The requirement is that 4 adjacent properties undergo a Fire Smart Audit with the local Fire Dept. There are 4 properties on Canso Road that have done this before the program ran out on Dec. 31. Presumably the program will be extended into 2020, but the information is not yet available on the RDN web page.
 8. 8. SG Web Site. Suzi has been working with Greg to overhaul the web site. She showed how they are proposing to rearrange the existing information on a revised web site. There was supportive discussion regarding these changes. Suzi also raised some points made in last month's discussion of the goals for the SG web site where she perceived ambiguity in the feedback she received. The discussion clarified some of the points.
 9. Solar Project Steve Earle was contacted by a group in Nanaimo trying to set up a solar project where the solar panels would be leased instead of bought. Details sketchy, and deadline for expressions of interest is Friday, Feb. 7.
 10. How to keep cars off the ferry? Steve Earle (who is Chair of the Ferry Advisory Panel) has noted the frequency of car overloads even now in the depth of winter. He distributed a small page with several ideas to encourage people not to take cars on the ferry. A few other ideas were mentioned in discussion. There was a lot of support for the idea that this topic be taken to the next Gabriola Talks session and put to the Transportation Group to come up with a tangible plan to reduce cars on the ferry and therefore reduce GHG emissions.

Attachments:

1. List of attendees (w/o email): Judith Roux, John Peirce, Steve Earl, Kees Langereis (IT Trustee), Ivan Bulic, Nancy Hetherington Peirce, Greg Lee, Janet Vickers, Burt Fiddler, Bob McKecknie, Suzi H