

Minutes of June 24th 2018 Sustainable Gabriola meeting

Attending: Fay, Nancy, Judith, Steve, John, Tom, Charlotte, Vivian, Bob (facilitator)

1) Housing (Nancy)

The Gabriola Housing Society (formed in 2013) is getting more active. Jim Ramsay and Martin Humphries have joined the board. 50 attended the Housing Forum in May and the report is in preparation. The Islands Trust Housing Needs report for the northern islands was published in late May. Notable points include the need for more rental housing, and housing for those on moderate to low income. The GHS is starting to look for property and is applying for charitable status. They will create a project proposal so that there is something concrete to take to the LTC to open the discussion about creating densities for needed housing. One of the asks of the LTC will be to change the definition for eligibility for “affordable housing” to “less than or equal to the median Gabriola income” (which is currently \$64k). (Existing standard is 60% of the median.)

2) Accessibility on Gabriola (Tom)

Tom is looking at accessible trails with new eyes. We have 3 Provincial Parks, all with major barriers to getting to the beach. The GALTT board wants to see community support (letters). Lots can be done for very little money as the main barrier to beach access is logs. GALTT is hoping to get \$5000 in Pr. Parks money to do more studies, but Tom thinks that this could actually be used to make a start. Capital has Regional District has inventories of all parks and is trying to bring them up to accessible standards. It can be argued that facilities designed to be accessible care better for everyone. The newest GALTT map will show accessibility. Tom will attend Commons Council at 7 PM on Tuesday to discuss this.

3) Alberni Hospice (Vivian)

A group of 8 Gabriolans visited the Ty Watson House hospice facility in Pt. Alberni on the 18th of June. TWH is one of very few independent hospices in BC. The project was funded by donations (including the building itself). They have 4 patient beds and room for families to stay. There are 49 volunteers! Dr. Wendy Johnson (Palliative Care specialist and Director of the P.A. Hospital) has been a strong advocate. The Gabriola group will be meeting to plan next moves, which could include getting accompaniment and respite going, then working to create a hospice.

4) Co-ops (Fay)

Members of the Gabriola Co-op Network and of the Energy and Investment co-ops will be meeting with Marty Frost on Tuesday (26th) to draw up the incorporation documents for the three co-ops. The next steps will be to apply to the Ministry for co-op status.

5) Village Vision and road standards (Steve)

The 1992 agreement between MoTI and Islands Trust is a barrier to creating a walkable, bikeable and person-friendly Village on Gabriola. Village Vision has recently met with the IT Programs Committee and the IT Executive Committee and has received a very positive response to a proposal to open up this agreement so that community organizations can work with their LTC and Regional District to make changes. The matter was also discussed at Trust Council last week and received support to proceed. We are optimistic, but it will take a long time for any changes to come into effect.

6) Economic Development (John)

The GICC along with Howard have created a body to replace the work of the now defunct Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation. The Gabriola body will receive \$65k in annual funding and a \$100k contribution from the Rural Dividend Fund. The E.D. group is wider than the Chamber, and has just hired Julie Sperber as its director. They are now working on operations planning and a budget. They will be applying to Island Coastal Economic Trust for more funding.

7) Next meeting: Sunday September 23rd at 3 PM.

Notes by Steve