

# Sustainable Gabriola

Minutes of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting

Present: Deb (chairing), Robbie, Tom, Charlotte, Mary, Fay, Judith, Steve E., Suzi, Bob M., Kees, Ewout, David, Dyan.

## 1. Gabriola Talks (Dyan)

The first Gabriola Talks session was held on May 26<sup>th</sup>. We first had discussions about how not to and how best to hold a public meeting on Gabriola, and then on what topics the participants wanted to see discussed in future sessions.

The working group is now writing a charter for respectful conversation. The first topic meeting will be in late September, on the Climate Crisis. We will talk about how to mobilize as a community, how to make changes as individuals and what we want our elected officials to do to address the Climate Emergency. We intend to involve youth in a serious way in this discussion.

Mary: Perhaps we should use the Sustainable Gabriola themes as a framework.

Fay: The focus should be on food, waste, energy and transportation.

Charlotte: Cultivate has reported that last year they produced only 2 bags of garbage. This is the type of example that we need to follow.

Dyan: We may ask participants to sign commitment cards, as was done at the Health and Wellness event last year.

Kees: It would be a good idea to get people to make incremental steps.

Robbie: Suggests that we aren't likely to be successful in stopping the climate crisis and urges people to watch "Deep adaptation" by Jem Bendell,

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAZJtFZZYmM>] for a video or

<http://www.scientistswarning.org/deep-adaptation-a-map-for-navigating-climate-tragedy/> for the article on how we should change things so that we can continue to exist if our society should break down because of the climate crisis. Kees also suggests:

<https://www.monbiot.com/category/climate-change/> and

<https://patternsofmeaning.com/2019/04/04/what-will-you-say-to-your-grandchildren/>

Bob: Preparing for a major earthquake will give us an adaptation exercise.

Steve (with reference to Robbie's comment): We have to be careful not to send the message that there isn't anything we can do about climate change, because if people decide that there is no hope, they may decide not to make any changes, and then were fucked.

Mary: Young people (e.g., Greta Thunberg) are talking about a huge crisis.

Tom: It's like WW II, the economy changes, everything changes, we need to be on a "war footing".

Kees (in reference to Bob's comment about an earthquake): It's not like an earthquake, it's a gradual crisis.

Dyan: We need a variety of tools/analogues for different types of people.

Fay: We should get those who will be attending the event in the fall to complete a climate impact calculation to find out what kinds of changes they might need to make.

[<http://islandfutures.ca/climate-change/> - it is in the form of an Excel spreadsheet that you do off-line]

Suzi: Perhaps we should make up a deck of coaching cards, where each one has action ideas.

## **2. Gabriola Climate Action Network (Fay)**

Fay, Steve and Michelle McEwen are working on a project to increase awareness about climate change actions on Gabriola. We have applied for ~\$120,000 in funding from the federal government's Climate Action Fund, and should hear whether or not we are successful sometime in July. If we receive the money it will be used to pay for a coordinator and to organize and pay for a series of events on Gabriola. Some of the proposed activities include:

- a hub to engage community organizations,
- programs at Gabriola Elementary,
- programs for high school students to learn about carbon accounting and then to work with businesses to help them identify where they can improve, and
- programs for individual Gabriolans, including lifestyle challenges.

Deb: wonders what dystopia will look like on Gabriola, a police state? climate refugees? No vehicles, no electricity, no cash.

Notes by Steve

**Next meeting: Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup>.**