

Sustainable Gabriola

Meeting Minutes for Sunday November 24, 2019

11 people in attendance

Facilitator: Mary W.

Minute taker: Suzi H.

GALTT update by Tom C.

- [Accessibility Survey Report](#) was completed and can be downloaded from the GALTT site. A few highlights/surprises include: handrails are essential, improving access to both of Twin Beaches were equally important
- Hard to collaborate with Provincial Parks because they are already stretched
- RDN appears to be way more responsive to addressing accessibility issues
- RDN has commented that GALTT is the best community group to work with because they are prepared and supply lots of volunteers
- A strategic planning exercise was held on November 23 and over 30 members were in attendance. The results from this event will be posted on the GALTT web site. The original [2015-2020 Strategic Plan](#) is on the GALTT Web site
- A new cycling committee has been struck at GALTT and the hope is to work with the diverse cycling community on trail planning and classification, and active transportation issues
- GALTT hopes to contribute input to the current RDN Regional Parks and Trails Strategy Open House scheduled for December 4, 2019

Investment Coop update by Fay W.

- AGM just happened. They have generous investors but they need more people to apply for loans. Please pass on to anyone you know who is looking for a loan to start or expand a business.
- A free overview session on creating a business plan is being provided on December 12 at the library from 5 to 6 pm
- There is a plan for a more in-depth business plan session in March that will be jointly run with the Gabriola Chamber of Commerce
- [Community Futures](#) is an organization that has offered to provide matching loans to successful recipients

Web site update by Suzi H.

- New photos are up, top header image and sidebar was removed
- Looks better now in mobile devices

- Next step is to review the content organization and menu structure. Input for this next step is welcome especially from newer members of Sustainable Gabriola that may have fresher eyes
- Any major changes will be brought to the group for discussion before implementation

Heat Pump Installation at ChristChurch Gabriola update by John P.

- It has been 11 months since heat pump was installed
- Savings in heating costs are estimated at 27%
- A 7 year payout is expected

Nancy P.-H. had a question on behalf of the Gabriola Housing Society

- The following are comments that people made or heard made about the open house held recently by the Gabriola Housing Society.
 - Have you considered a barged over used house rather than a manufactured one since it could be half the price? Response: Housing Society is following the Denman Island process which is at least 6 months ahead. With the rezoning it looks like they would have to build new homes and have them rated at an energy efficiency of step 2 minimum.
 - Could prospective tenants have been asked about the development
 - Could sweat equity have been built in to the project; Why not tie in Habitat for Humanity. Response: Habitat for Humanity generally works with future owners of homes and not renters
 - Why wasn't the local builders community consulted
 - Why not have a more radical design in terms of using natural materials and alternate power systems
 - Sounder article seen as fair
 - \$400 per sq ft building cost cited at meeting seemed really high. Response: That figure is all in
- BC Housing is providing most of the funding and it is still unclear of how much say they will have on choosing renters vs the local landlord. Or what the criteria will be. Many people reiterated that it was important for the Housing Society to remain transparent to the process.
- A housing agreement will be used with the renters as a management tool. The agreement could also include that qualifying criteria must still be met. For example, if a renter qualified for the housing because they had a job on Gabriola then their lease could be terminated if they started working in Nanaimo.
- Lots of effort spent on creating connections with the neighbouring community. For example, water was a concern at the open house—the same people from Lockinvar area who were concerned about water with the Spruce-Church development to the North were now facing the same issues to the East with the new Paisley street development.

Telus cell tower application by Tom C.

- Potential application coming from Telus to site a tower and the Local Trust Committee has been asked to do a review of their standing resolution on cell towers
- Should be on Trustee meeting agenda on November 28
- Expect that Telus is looking to install 5G compatible towers for future expansion

Next Meeting

- Sunday January 26, 2020

Next Facilitator

- Unknown