

## Minutes of Sustainable Gabriola Meeting February 23, 2020, 3 p.m.

Facilitator: John Peirce  
Minute taker: Fay Weller  
Next meeting Facilitator: Fay Weller  
Next meeting Minute taker: TBD

Present: See attached list

John 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 Islands Trust Cell Tower consultation process on IT agenda for February 27.** Bob McKechnie provided a brief overview of the history, including the consulting process previously in place, the revised consultation process developed by the federal government for local governments, which doesn't include opportunities for expressing concerns about the radiation and health concerns, and a different proposal to be presented by Kees at the Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Suggested action to support a consultation process that would support full consultation, including the health and radiation impacts, included emailing the three Gabriola IT trustees, attending the meeting on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> and/or asking to speak at the meeting. More info attached.
- 2. Gabriola Housing Society update.** Nancy Hetherington Peirce reported that their proposal for a 24-unit Affordable Housing Project, which was submitted to the Local Trust Committee on Jan. 15, is moving ahead quickly. Staff indicate they are likely to have the review completed by mid-March for review at a possible LTC meeting in March.
- 3. Cost Increases from RDN.** Randy Young presented the cost increases proposed by the RDN for the next fiscal year. The attached document provides the details of those increases.
- 4. Empower Gabriola Goal Zero event February 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3 upstairs at the Commons.** Fay described the event as an opportunity to hear about and play with the various goal zero batteries and solar panels that can be used on a permanent basis or when the power goes out.
- 5. Gabriola Investment Co-op presents Sustaining Island Farming on Gabriola on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 1 – 4 at the Roxy.** Patricia Reichert from the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust will describe how they promote local agriculture on SSI by acquiring, managing, and leasing land for farming.
- 6. Gabriola Talks.** Steve Earle reported that the next session of "Gabriola Talks" will be on Sunday, March 8, 1 – 4 pm 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: Transportation, Food, and Consumption and Waste. Pre-register for the event at SG website page or click here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/gabriola-talks-climate-crisis-action-strategies-registration-89341527915>
- 7. Agricultural Co-op restructuring.** Laura-Jean Kelly presented the recently approved structural changes to the Agricultural Co-op (see attached diagram and description). She also indicated that they are looking for board members for the upcoming year - 3 two year terms and 2 one year terms, to add to the current nominations that are: Lisa Butler (one year), Eric Veale (2 year). The AGM is planned for March 29<sup>th</sup>. To become a member (\$5) register at Saturday market or at the AGM.
- 7. Health and Wellness Collaborative Feb 13 recap.** Dyan described the event put on by the collaborative. Paul Hasselback provided valuable data, some of it the first time it has been Gabriola specific. The attendees were asked to provide potential collaborations that would address the well-being issues facing Gabriola, such as high level of child poverty. The collaborative was asked to consider environmental determinants as well as social determinants.
- 8. Culture.** Greg Blanchette suggested that, since the group was focused on big cultural changes (shifting energy use, food use, etc.), we could incorporate cultural ways (poetry,

art, music, etc.) of making those changes into what we do. There was support for this idea and it was noted that in the early days of SG there was incorporation of culture into the Gabriola Sustainability Plan of 09/10, called the Department of Soul (p. 37):

[http://sustainablegabriola.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/community\\_sustainability\\_plan\\_sept\\_8-10.pdf](http://sustainablegabriola.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/community_sustainability_plan_sept_8-10.pdf)

Attendees: John Peirce, Steve Earle, Nancy Hetherington Peirce, Greg Blanchette, Janet Vickers, Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, Gerry Bowes, Mary Wilson, Laura-Jean Kelly, Randy Young, Katharine Patterson, Fay Weller, Charlotte Cameron, Tom Cameron, Bob McKecknie.