

# SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA – NOTES OF MEETING BY ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

Jan. 24, 2021

Facilitator: Mary Wilson

Notes: John Peirce

About 13 people present (Bob McK., Mary W, John P., Nancy HP, Deb F, Dyan DF, Daniel Papania, Lisa Papania, Steve E, Greg Blee, Suzi, Wendy Schultz, Vanessa C) using Zoom. A few joined and others left as the meeting was in progress. Thanks to Island Futures for hosting the Zoom call.

Mary welcomed everyone to this Zoom format and people briefly introduced themselves.

1. **Gabriola Housing Matters** (Dyan Duns Moor-Farley) Web site:

<https://gabriolahousingmatters.ca/>

*A space for education & engagement about issues and options for housing on Gabriola Island, BC, Snuneymuxw Territory*

Three online surveys planned

**Survey 1 :**  
**Jan 20 – Feb 2**

**Housing Need, Affordability  
& Diversity**

**Survey 2 :**  
**Feb 3 – 16**

**Biodiversity and  
Water Conservation**

**Survey 3 :**  
**Feb 17 – Mar 3**

**Managing  
Growth**

Hoping to get 300 responses to each survey.

2. **Gabriola Housing Society** (Nancy Hetherington Peirce)

Paisley Place Affordable Housing Project

The Public Hearing was conducted by the Islands Trust on Jan. 7, followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the OCP and LUB bylaws. 3<sup>rd</sup> reading passed on a 2:1 vote.

Passed by the Executive Committee of Islands Trust on Jan 13. The OCP bylaw now goes to the Minister for approval, and then everything comes back to the LTC for adoption.

The Housing Agreement is not yet finalized.

On Jan. 14 GHS will apply for major funding from BC Housing. Hoping for approval of 24-unit proposal, but they have also included a 12-unit proposal (as requested) in case there are not enough funds for full project. That funding consists of:

- An outright grant towards construction costs (~ \$2.8 MM for 24 units)
- Ongoing subsidy to support mortgage for 35 years (or 50 yrs if CMHC grant received)
- BC Housing to fund 2500 units across the province. Only most robust proposals will be funded.

### 3. **Climate Emergency, Habitat Loss and Pandemics** ( Deb Ferens)

Brief notes (no original thoughts here, just notes from my various readings):

Protecting biodiversity and preventing wildlife habitat loss contributes to human health. A recent UN Report highlights links between "unprecedented biodiversity loss" and spread of disease. The emergence of diseases such as Covid-19, bird flu and HIV from animals was entirely driven by the razing of wild places which brought people into contact with the dangerous microbes. Pathogens do not respect species boundaries. Shrinking natural habitats add to the risks of diseases spilling over from animals to humans. The frequency of disease outbreaks has been increasing steadily between 1980 and 2013 affecting every country in the world and attributable to high levels of global travel, trade & connectivity and high-density living. But the links to climate change and biodiversity are the most striking. The world is in an "era of pandemics" and unless the destruction of the natural world is halted, they will emerge more often, spread more rapidly, kill more people and affect the global economy with more devastating impact than ever before.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1072292>

#### **UN report highlights links between 'unprecedented biodiversity loss' and spread of disease**

15 September 2020

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/06/190624111612.htm>

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#### **Habitat loss linked to global emergence of infectious diseases**

Date:

June 24, 2019

Source:

Auburn University

Summary:

New research may provide the foundation for new scientific studies looking into the association of habitat loss and the global emergence of infectious diseases.

<https://ensia.com/features/covid-19-coronavirus-biodiversity-planetary-health-zoonoses/>

## **Destruction of habitat and loss of biodiversity are creating the perfect conditions for diseases like COVID-19 to emerge**

As habitat and biodiversity loss increase globally, the novel coronavirus outbreak may be just the beginning of mass pandemics

March 17, 2020

Ensia - University of Minnesota - Institute on the Environment

A BC Climate Action Network has been formed.

### **4. Proposed Expansion of Nanaimo Airport (YCD).** (Bob McKechnie)

Business interests in Nanaimo are pushing for an expansion of the airport to include longer runways to handle new large aircraft and expansion of service infrastructure, including hotel(s) and refueling facilities. Requires changes to OCP bylaws of Area A. Some locals are opposed. There is a need to coordinate any such plans with the Regional Growth Plan.

Vanessa Craig has been involved in discussions at RDN Council level.

- RDN has no control of aeronautical components of expansion but do have control over associated infrastructure like hotels.
- There was no public outreach initially. Now there is a new public engagement strategy being proposed – likely a new hearing as well.
- **Area B's interest is related flight traffic and therefore aeronautic components, which are outside RDN responsibility.**
- Bob McKechnie reported that the RDN had turned down his request that Area B be included as a stakeholder in the discussion leading to the bylaw amendments which would open the door to expansion of the airport on grounds reported by Vanessa. He then polled the meeting to see how many thought the Islands Trust should be involved in any revisions to the Regional Growth Plan and counted 11 hands. Vanessa said she would take this request to the RDN board at its next meeting.

### **5. Doughnut Economics** (who spoke to this??)

Mention of Kate Raworth book (*Doughnut Economics – 7 ways to think like a 21st century economist*, 2015)

Approach that balances human and environmental needs.  
Nanaimo Council has adopted this as a planning approach.

GIRO circular economy – RDN support for proposal to experiment with ways to make saleable products out of large volume of textiles that GIRO receives but cannot repurpose or recycle.

## **6. Land Stewards Society** (Steve Earle)

Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society (GILSS) 1<sup>st</sup> AGM scheduled for January 30 at 2 PM by Zoom. Sustainable Gabriola has been asked to be an organizational member for a \$50 annual fee and supply a Director (Deb Ferens). Discussion of SG being a network, not an organization and how do we pay a fee when we have no bank account. Agreed that goals of GILSS are very consistent with goals of SG. Bob offered to coordinate fee payment if several could donate \$10. Several offers were forthcoming.

## **7. Eco Grief Group** (Lisa Papania)

After November's meeting, a small subset of Sustainable Gabriola members connected to further the idea of holding eco-grief sessions in the community. The small working team later discussed opportunities to hold group sessions for youth, but also for others in the community. We agreed to loop in the Gabriola Medical Centre as the appropriate resource for community members suffering from clinical depression or anxiety. Lisa (as point person for the working team) agreed to propose to the team alternate forms the eco-grief sessions could take. Lisa's update on 24 Jan 2021 was to inform the working team (and SG in general) that she has reached out to the Gabriola Medical Centre and PHC; but had no reply. She has subsequently learned (through volunteering at PHC) that the Hope Centre would be the appropriate organization to connect with. And Lisa is currently taking a course on leading grief groups. Action items: Lisa will reach out to Hope Centre; call Cathy Fox to alert Cathy to our idea and ask for guidance on how to refer potential grief group participants to the Medical Centre if they need professional care for anxiety or depression; and will send the working team proposed eco-grief format ideas once Lisa has completed her grief group training.

## **8. Next Meeting February 28th**

John Peirce to Facilitate. Fay Weller to take notes.