

Sustainable Gabriola Minutes,

February 28, 3 p.m.

Facilitator: John Peirce

Note-taker: Fay Weller

1. Gertie and old fire hall: Steve Earle reported that Gertie has received \$187 K to renovate the old fire hall. The renovation will include replacing doors and windows, painting and putting in a heat pump, solar panels and an electrical charging station. This will ensure a place to park the buses under cover and the use of buses in an emergency satisfies the emergency mandate of the fire department. Local contractors will be used for the renovation work.
2. Gabriola Housing Matters: The Gabriola Housing Matters group established a website and set up a series of surveys. The numbers for the surveys are: 1st – 410, 2nd – 340, and 3rd – 272 (in process). A request was made to fill out the last survey to ensure the numbers are robust. The group is currently drafting the reports and will provide the report and recommendations to the IT Housing Advisory Planning Commission by end of month.
3. Land Stewards Society: Deb Ferens reported that the founding AGM was well attended, and participants described a wide-ranging vision for the organization. The first board meeting focused on the application for charitable status, a budget, vision and land deals in the community.
4. Gabriola Housing Society update: The Housing Society has submitted their proposal to the Islands Trust and expect to hear back regarding the next steps in the approval process in April.
5. Islands Trust Matters: Nancy Heatherington Pierce let people know that there is a proposal on the March 9th IT Council meeting to take out the section of the Policy statement that includes Sustainable Communities, Affordable Housing and Transportation. She asked people to submit their concern about this proposed amendment to the trustees. She will be attending the meeting. There is also an open house on March 3rd regarding this issue and people can register to respond to the policy Statement.
6. Airport: Vanessa indicated that she had spoken to the director of Area A, who had then made a motion to include the Islands Trust in the consultation regarding the Regional Growth Strategy (which includes the airport expansion). This motion was approved unanimously The 3rd reading on the Regional Growth Strategy will take place at the same time as the consultation is happening. There will be another public hearing on this issue as well.
7. RDN updates (please see attached from the RDN Director).
8. Climate Change Future of Sustainability Report: Deb described some of the impact of Climate Change described in the report (<https://www.forumforthefuture.org/new-report-out-now-from-system-shock-to-system-change-its-time-to-transform>) and suggested that we need more conversations about some of the deep issues related to Climate Change. See more details about the report appended to these minutes.
9. Rise up Communication Infrastructure: Deb Ferens suggested that we consider this online communication tool. She proposed considering our own locally controlled email provider through use of this tool or a similar one. It would provide alternative mailing lists and web mails. Environmental groups and peer to peer networks use this tool and it can increase community self-reliance.
10. Textile initiative: Fay reported that 17 designers had picked up fabric from GIRO's waste textile stream and were in the process of creating potential items that be produced by the C2C Threads initiative. Entrepreneurial support for designers was now being considered a key component of the initiative.

Next Sustainable Gabriola Meeting: Sunday, March 28,

Facilitator: Fay Weller,

Note-taker: Deb Feren

RDN Report

Sustainable Site Planning guide released: <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/notice-2021-02-24-0>

BC Agricultural and Climate Change – Vancouver Island Baseline info and modelling (includes maps for this region)
Alternate Approval process for **Electric Charging station** received 68 comments from Area B. As a result of the comments the RDN is exploring user pay options for the Electric Charging station.

Fire Smart Grant includes Gabriola. A fire risk assessment and mitigation plan for the 707 Community Park will begin this year. In addition to being included in the Area B tax budget, RDN staff have also applied for FireSmart funding. The funding will determine the size of the area that can be assessed. See addendum below

Social Needs Assessment: The Gabriola Health and Wellness Collaborative is working with the RDN on this assessment. More can be found at: <https://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/social-needs-strategy>

New Policy combining tree replacement, fire risk and invasive plant and species management: The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board has combined tree removal and replacement, fire risk management and invasive plant species management into one policy to better manage its parks and trails.

The new policy provides comprehensive guidelines to enhance and maintain healthy rural and forested ecosystems, as well as for removing trees to protect RDN and private property infrastructure.

The policy will provide the foundation of an invasive species management strategy that will help tackle invasive species, such as Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom and giant hogweed.

The policy requires trees removed or lost due to human activity to be replaced (same species), reducing the overall loss of tree canopy.

Fire Smart Addendum:

As a follow-up to our meeting: I was asked at the meeting for more information about the community wildfire resiliency plans that will be developed as part of the grant funding the RDN received. The question was whether the Fire Department will be consulted. The RFP just went out today and it includes the following which addresses that question:

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES The successful proponent will:

- a) Develop seven Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans, one for each of the Electoral Areas of the Regional District of Nanaimo.
- b) The Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans must use the 2020 CWRP Template and follow the 2020 CWRP Supplemental Instruction Guide, including the guidance for establishing an area of interest and determining the wildland-urban interface. All plans must be in accordance with the requirements set out by the UBCM CRI program guide.
- c) Large format georeferenced PDF maps that clearly represent (at a suitable scale) the required content and spatial data submissions, including metadata as set out by the UBCM CRI program guide requirements at <https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Funding~Programs/LGPS/CRI/cr-fcs-2021-program-guide.pdf>.
- d) Hosting an information session(s) for members of the public to explain the process of developing the CWRP as well as answering any questions that members of the public may have
- e) Host information sessions, engage and collaborate with key stakeholders such as the Regional District staff, Fire Departments, First Nation and Municipal partners, Provincial Government representatives. A contact list of key stakeholders will be provided to the successful proponent.

The RFP can be found here if you're interested: <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/sites/default/files/2021-03/21-021%20Community%20Wildfire%20Resiliency%20Plans.pdf>

Climate Change and Sustainability Report:

We live in hugely uncertain times. COVID-19 has shocked the very systems on which we rely, kickstarting a decade already heading for extreme turbulence.

We are set to see wide-ranging change and transitions – both positive and negative. Come 2030, will we find ourselves in a just, resilient and sustainable world? Or one in which we witness ever more destabilising shocks? Forum for the Future's latest Future of Sustainability report, From System Shock to System Change – Time to Transform, explores the **five key dynamics** that lie at the heart of these transitions. It considers the **interconnected nature** of human and planetary health, and reveals **four trajectories** emerging from the COVID-19 crisis – only one of which will deliver the just transition urgently needed if we are to avert the worst of the social, climate and biodiversity crises we all face.

'Dynamics' take into account the:

- **latest signals of change** – social, political, economic, environmental and political ideas, developments or innovations able to disrupt current norms;
- **trends these signals create**
- **interactions between trends** – with two or more combining in clusters to potentially shift whole systems.

There are five dynamics we should all take note of.

BioSphere Breakdown

Equitable Transitions

Economic Crisis & Reform

Regenerative Openings

Tech & Governance Nexus

These are the four trajectories:

1. Discipline – governments use control/coercion to keep the current model of growth going
2. Compete & Retreat – nationalist dynamics prevail; collapse of globalization and emergence of fragmented regionalism;
3. Unsettled – no new normal; strange and volatile world; fatalism & anxiety
4. Transform – planetary health & human well-being are interconnected and come first