

Sustainable Gabriola meeting, 3pm Sunday, 25 July, 2021

at the Timberframe on the Commons ... Dyan facilitating, Bob Greg notetaking.

Introductions

Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, Deb Ferens, Fay Weller, Jan Pullinger, Tom Cameron, Charlotte Cameron, Greg Blee, Tobi Elliott, Suzi, Burt, Steven Earle, Karen Herle

Steve's book [A Brief History of Earth's Climate](#) should be out from New Society in September!

1. Territorial Acknowledgement (Dyan)

We had a long discussion, last meeting, about doing a meaningful acknowledgement, not just checking a box ... Decided that the facilitator will endeavour to do a territorial acknowledgement grounded in relationship:

There has been much recent news about residential schools, including nearby Penelekut (Kuper I.) ... Gabriola has a history (and not just distant) of disrespecting First Nation burial sites, through decisions of land use, land owners ... We are not unblemished by these practices, we are directly involved.

2. Agenda review

3. Islands Trust Project Statement (Tobi)

An overview of where we're at: IT wanted to review its policy statement (first time in 50 years) ... process under way for ~2 years ... They consulted with First Nations first in every area ... then broader public consultation started (but interrupted by COVID) ... People now feeling their concerns were not heard.

It didn't even pass first reading, but it's already being hotly debated, e.g. on Facebook. From now to Sept., local trustees can consult with their communities ... but process is becoming politicized ... some danger that personal agendas may be pushed forward.

Could SG (maybe in collaboration with the Health and Wellness Collaborative) conduct a public dialogue around this? There is some confusion over who exactly is supposed to present this information

The new policy statement is different in that it is grounded in reconciliation ... centres Indigenous cultures and nations as being present ... an intersection of community, environment (climate), and First Nations engagement ... broadens the old, interpretive "protect & preserve unique amenities" take.

Comments, questions:

- Burt — Trustee Dan Rogers made the original (1973?) documents available, which said the original focus of the IT is the people who live here. The new policy statement is much longer, with much more focus on First Nations, climate crisis, need for affordable housing. Very long and verbose, lots of repetition, not an easy read.
- Steve — What is the timing? Tobi: It's in flux. Unsure whether Trustees or staff take the lead, but we should know on Thursday (Trustees meeting). Meant to be discussed until Sept. But it's a long document, not easy to absorb. Need clarity (from Trustees) on what a

policy statement does and means.

- Deb — Public can give general input anytime ... the formal process begins after 1st reading (when there's an actual draft, and a formal public input process) ... Re SG role, we could hold a public event, but we can also just encourage our members & contacts to read and respond to it. A side-by-side comparison (old vs new policy) has been proposed.
- Fay — People want to understand the differences (additions, deletions) ... SG could provide an easier way to understand the policy statement.
- Jan — Some people are entrenched in their views, for many difference reasons ... For those dug in, mere information is not useful. We'd need an analysis of the opposition, and then deal with the underlying fears/reasons ... We could work with the other islands on a communication process ... Get the opinion-makers (e.g. CoC) involved, encourage them to state their views openly.
- Tom — The IT quoting "Preserve and Protect" to the exclusion of society was wrong ... They really need a new, better tagline to replace P&P ... Also, we must keep the Treaty Settlement lands & process in mind ...
- Greg — Facebook/social media breeds disagreement, by design; it's not an effective forum to work out difficult issues ... This is partly a collision of written vs oral culture.
- Tobi — A key issue seems to be property values ... the ability to execute individual decision-making, vs acting communally ...
- Suzi — Important to identify the roots of people's concerns ... Maybe encourage supporters to also speak/write, not just the dissenters.

Facebook group: Islands Trust policy and purpose discussion (private group, 1400 participants, maybe 3 times that many lurkers) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3926778934097362>

The *Truth Precedes Reconciliation* document is well worth pursuing.

Steve — likes idea of side-by-side document.

Dyan's written notes:

- Provide understandable comparative info (side-by-side document)
- Letter writing (including opinion-makers)
- Public engagement event (but may not be the best strategy)
- Figure out where the resistance is coming from.
 - info is not useful to those who are dug in — avoid confrontation
 - who is opposing? Where is the resistance coming from?
 - Deal with the fears.
 - Work with the other islands.
- Need a new tagline to replace P&P (Preserve and Protect)
- Facebook is a site for disagreement.
- enormous tsunami of written documents
 - written vs oral culture
- Treaty settlement process is a flag

Action: Jan, Tobi will work toward figuring out a bit of a strategy, understanding people's motivation ... as citizens.

4. Climate Crisis (Deb)

(Deb encourages each of us to bring particular items forward monthly.) The COP26 conference is coming up, Oct. 31 to Nov. 12 in Glasgow ... the first since Paris agreement ... Short video of David Attenborough on the front page of UN COP26 website (<https://ukcop26.org/>) ... Putting global finance as a top priority.

Last June, for the G7 conference, SG composed a letter to the members, urging input and action. Deb is willing to draft a letter this time too.

Also a Youth Summit in Sept. in Milan ...

- Tom — SG should be getting the local Gabriola stories to Gabriolans, e.g. the dieback on the foreshore during the heat dome ... Another: Our weather station has 50 years of data, showing winters are noticeably different in snowfalls ... Maybe have a Streamkeepers rep come talk to us; they have been keeping records for 60 years ... We should be establishing annual shoreline transects, possibly photographic ...
- Deb — We do have a local Shorekeepers group. The climate crisis is not elsewhere, it's here; Gulf Islands are in the top ten regions of Canada for climate and ecological impacts.
- Tom — The dieback of certain tree species is a likely local result of climate change.
- Jan — Bringing it local is the best way to make it matter. Link all these stories together. Storytelling is the way to people's hearts, and action.
- Tobi — An excellent resource is EcoSense, with Gord & Ann Baird, out of Highlands ... They want to put a climate lens on every political decision.

Former Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney talks about global finance, in 3 recent episodes of Ideas on CBC Radio.

Action: Tom will take some leadership on bringing these stories together ... along with Deb, Tobi, Steve, and Jan (on the story aspect).

5. SG Electric Vehicle initiative (Steve)

Proceeding with initiative to promote use of EVs on Gabriola ... Will provide written info on website, *Sounder* articles, an outdoor EV event with existing owners ... Steve has written a list of 10 FAQs; passed it around, will send it out as addendum to the minutes for comment by 10 August.

- Fay — The Investment Co-op board is interested in supporting the initiative.
- Tom — The initiative should include e-bikes, they are happening now.
- Burt — Is this the best use of our energy, vs trying to get people out of cars altogether? "Lithium is the new oil."
- Fay — The concept of cooperative car-sharing may help address the consumer objections.

6. Public Trust Doctrine (standing item) (Deb)

MOVE TO NEXT MEETING

7. Tackling the culture of consumerism (Deb)

MOVE TO NEXT MEETING

8. Water (Karen)

Wondering about local expertise on cisterns, water systems, etc.

- Tobi: rainwater harvesting is an initiative SG could easily get behind.

John Pierce is very knowledgeable.

RDN website is a great resource: <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/rainwater-harvesting>

New Societies Publishing has a book on rainwater harvesting.

A new company, Aquality Water Service (office at Twin Beaches), will be installing systems.

Rob Holt (H2O) is “on the ball.”

9. Lunatics Walk (Steve)

A moonlight walk around the island (N & S Roads): Sat-21-Aug, meet in Village at 10pm.

10. Next meeting date, facilitator (4th Sunday)

Move to 5th **Sunday 29-August** ... Bob facilitator, Mary note-taker.

Ends about 4:37.

==