

# SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA – NOTES OF MEETING

AUG. 29, 2021

Facilitator: Bob McKechnie

Notes: John Peirce

12 people present (Bob McK., John P., Nancy HP, Deb F, Steve E, Greg B., Suzi, Gavin C., Ewout vD., Fay W., Kees L., Steve M.) at the Timberframe Building at the Commons, 3 PM.

Bob welcomed everyone and people briefly introduced themselves with comments about what they would be excited about doing if “all the big problems were magically solved”.

## 1. Poetry Gabriola (Greg)

Poetry Gabriola is hosting a reading next Sunday as part of the Berlin International Literature Festival. The theme of the readings will be remembering those who have died during the pandemic. Timberframe Bldg at Commons, Sunday Sept. 5, 330 – 5 PM).

## 2. Upgrades to Nanaimo Airport (Bob McKechnie)

Bob reviewed the history of the planned upgrades. To proceed there needed to be revisions to the Area A OCP and the Regional Growth Strategy. Both these bylaws were passed in spite of considerable opposition from residents of Area B (Gabriola) and the Islands Trust. There will be a consultation Committee to help manage communication about the upgrade with the public. Bob will sit on that committee. There is space for one more.

## 3. Green House Gas Emissions update (Fay W.)

The original report for GHG emissions on Gabriola was dated ca 2008.

It's time for an update, which is being funded by Island Futures. An intern is working on gathering data for 2019, which is pre-pandemic. The objective is to shift people's behaviour by highlighting areas where we have relatively high emissions as an island society.

## 4. Electric Vehicles (Steve E.)

Sustainable Gabriola is hosting an Electric Vehicle Expo on September 26th. This event is part of a project to reduce GHG emissions on Gabriola by promoting greater use of electric transportation. We have invited owners of EVs (bikes or cars) to come with their vehicles and to do their best to answer questions from other Gabriolans who are interested in going electric. So far, lots of e-car owners have said that they'll come, with all of the following represented: Tesla model 3, Fiat e-500, Chevy Bolt plugin hybrid, Chevy Bolt electric, Nissan Leaf, Hyundai Kona and Kia Soul. We've also invited the island's two e-bike sellers and some people that ride e-bikes.

Mention was made of trying to convince the Vancouver car co-op, MODO, to put a pickup truck on Gabriola.

## 5. GIRO's. recent Fashion Show (Fay Weller)

The GIRO Fashion Show was sold out. It was held for educational purposes to raise awareness of environmental impact of clothing production. The global production of clothing and shoes has a higher effect on GHG emissions than International Travel and Marine Uses combined.

During the pandemic, almost all markets for recycled textiles have dried up. GIRO recently sponsored a contest to see who could make useful and marketable items from the unused textile material. Several excellent examples were created and used as part of a proposal for Cradle to Cradle reuse of textile materials, which was granted \$103,000 by the RDN. Using this money and a further grant from Inland Coastal Economic Trust (ICET), GIRO is planning to build a new 800 sq ft “Makers’ space” to implement these ideas. With luck, groundbreaking should be late this year.

## **6. Islands Trust Policy Statement (Kees Langereis)**

The Islands Trust Policy Statement is having a major rewrite for the first time in many years. This document lays out regional policy that applies to the entire Trust Area, and therefore guides all Local Trust Committees.

The current draft of the revised policy statement is available for public comment until December. The revised draft will be written and presented to Trust Council for consideration of 1st Reading. For another way to look at the policy statement, here is a [COMPARISON OF LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES](#) from Kee’s personal web site.

The discussion that followed was wide ranging. Anyone who has comments should send them into the Island Trust Council before December. The group reiterated to Kees their conclusion from the last SG meeting that this Policy Statement in its current draft form is too long and repetitive, and it needs a further rewrite to simplify and shorten it.

## **7. Climate Change (Deb Ferens)**

There was discussion about getting an all candidates meeting to discuss climate change. Steve E. said that Gabriola Talks will consider if such a meeting is possible this year given the short time frame.

Deb mentions two items needing action soon:

- a. Write to David Johnston, Commissioner of Leaders’ Debates, to ask for a leaders’ debate on the Climate Crisis. [Sample letter in addendum](#). For further information: Chantal Ouimet, Director of Communications, Leaders' Debates Commission, Chantal.Ouimet@debates-debats.ca, (613) 299-7723
- b. One can find information re Sept. 8 Climate Day of Action at [350.org](#).

## **8. Next Meeting September 26th**

John Peirce to Facilitate. Fay Weller to take notes.