

SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA – NOTES OF MEETING October 24, 2021

Facilitator: John Peirce Notes: Fay Weller

12 people present (John P., Nancy HP, Bob M, Deb F, Steve E, Greg B., Suzi, Tom & Charlotte, Fay W., Dyan DF, Jim W.) via Zoom at 3 PM.

John welcomed everyone.

1. Investment Co-op update (Fay Weller)

The investment co-op will be offering green loans for items such as cisterns, EVs, solar panels, heat pumps, electric bikes and EV chargers. Feedback was positive. The Investment Co-op has also just provide a loan to the Community Hall for their outdoor gathering place initiative.

2. Insurance Co-op (Deb Ferens)

Deb asked if there was any plans or discussion about having an insurance co-op on Gabriola. She mentioned the extra high bill for Commons insurance and was hoping Gabriolans could find a local solution. Numerous people echoed the concern. Greg mentioned the Co-operators. Deb, Fay and Dyan all offered to look into it further.

3. Climate Change (Deb Ferens)

- a) Gabriola Day of Action
- b) Letter sent to request specific election debate on Climate Change mentioned the previous month was sent to David Johnston, Commissioner of Leaders' Debates and a copy was sent to the Sounder.
- c) Draft Letter to Prime Minister Trudeau regarding COP26 penned by Deb F and Steve E (see attached)

There was a discussion about whether SG, which deliberately has stayed away from becoming an official organization, can 'sign' the letter. There was a decision to sign it as "the following individuals who participate in Sustainable Gabriola. Dyan suggested that the wording needed to 'hold the PM's feet to the fire' more. Action: Dyan would send revised wording to Steve and Deb and they would revise and send off.

4. Electric Vehicle Event (Steve E.)

Sustainable Gabriola hosted 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. Steve 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. There were about 20 EV's at the event, 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. Several E- bikes were also featured at the event.

There was over 50 people who attended the event. Some drivers indicated they would be interested in an EV drivers group to discuss a) cost of maintenance, b) battery, c) other operational considerations. Options suggested included linking to a mid Island EV group, and an email group (listserve). It was suggested that if there was a Gabriola group that it meet in the spring.

5. Format for SG meetings Virtual or Real (Steve Earle)

Steve opened up a discussion on whether we should have virtual or real SG meetings going forward. There was mixed reaction with interest in face to face meetings with questions about masks, double vaccinations, locations that would be viable. There was general agreement that we should proceed with face to face meetings following Public Health Guidelines. Action: Suzi will check out various room options for the next meeting.

7. FAC update (Steve Earle)

BC Ferries will be holding a public meeting November 16th to discuss recent changes such as ramp being paved and engine troubles. There was a request for predictions for 2022 ferries given the increased sailings and reduced car space. There were suggestions from some SG members that in order for ferries to be on time (much easier for busses and walk on passengers) that they should stop loading the ferry (potentially leaving some cars behind), in order to stay on schedule. Steve suggested that they should leave on time (or close to) by not spending so much time loading the last two cars. Dyan felt that the wait was already long enough for people heading over to medical appointments. Others liked the idea of leaving cars behind if it meant the ferry was on time.

8. Next Meeting November 28th

Fay Weller to Facilitate. Deb F. to take notes.