

# **SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA – Notes of meeting on February 27, 2022**

Present: Fay W, John P, Steve E, Tom C, Charlotte C, Nancy HP, Bob McK, Deb F, Dyan D-F, Vera Nikoulina

The meeting was held at the Commons. Facilitator: Deb. F., Notes: Steve E.

Welcome & Approval of Agenda

## **1) Climate Change**

Deb: March 12<sup>th</sup> is a day of action organized by 350.org and Council of Canadians in support of the promised Just Transition legislation (<https://350.org/just-transition-day-of-action/>). The event will be at the village at 1 pm, and there will be letters to sign.

Deb also spoke about the Nairobi conference on plastic pollution, which starts on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

There was discussion about some of the recent climate changes that we've experienced (drought, heat dome, atmospheric rivers) and some of the work that is being done here to reduce our climate impacts.

## **2) Municipal elections**

Nancy reminded us that Municipal elections are coming sooner than we think. The nomination period is from August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 9<sup>th</sup>, and the elections are on October 15<sup>th</sup>. So far, the only thing that we know for sure is that Kees is not running for the LTC. We talked about finding and supporting some potential candidates, who are: youngish, progressive, mature, collaborative and constructive, and who care about climate change and reconciliation.

Names of some potential candidates were discussed.

## **3) GILSS**

Deb noted that the GILSS AGM is on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the AGI Hall. We discussed the continuation of S.G. as a community organization member and agreed that Island Futures should be asked to pay for the organization membership fee (something between \$50 and \$100) and for Deb's membership fee as our representative. Memberships need to be renewed by March 14<sup>th</sup> in order to have a vote at the AGM.

Steve said that GILSS is looking for a new organizational member as GALTT does not want to be one. Dyan suggested the Health Care Foundation because of their significant concern over housing for health care workers. She will approach them. Fay suggested GIRO as a potential GILSS partner organization.

Deb explained that GILSS wants to create Gabriola fundraising collaborative for organizations on Gabriola looking for capital funding. It was agreed that this is a good idea, although not something that S.G. should be involved.

## **4) Light traps**

Steve demonstrated the crab-larvae light trap that will be deployed at Descanso Bay (RDN dock) and in Silva Bay from April to September of this year, and described how this is a project that extends the length of the Salish Sea from southern Puget Sound to Quadra Island. Vera, Fay and Tom expressed an interest in participating with John and Nancy as backup.

#### **5) Insurance Co-op**

Deb described how the Commons' insurance premiums have almost doubled in 2022 (to \$11,000). They have created an "Insurance Summit" to look for ways to reduce their costs and are willing to work with other organizations. An insurance co-op may be one way to go. The Gabriola Co-op Network would be happy to contribute.

#### **6) Composting toilets**

Vera explained that her wish to build on her property is being held back by the cost of a septic system. She wants help to explore a composting toilet as an option. It was noted that, ironically, in order to get permission to use a composting toilet you need to have a septic system in place. It was suggested that Vera talk to Tobi Elliott [tobi.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:tobi.elliott@gmail.com) as she has done some work on this, and also to Vanessa Craig. Nancy indicated that part of the challenge is dealing with grey water.

#### **7) Gabriola Talks (tabled until next meeting)**

#### **8) Earth Day**

Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day. A group is organizing an event for that afternoon. It is planned to start at the Commons/School at around the time the kids are let out, with a march down North Road (Village Trail) ending at Folklife Village. There may be some other events in the morning.

#### **9) Thinning in the 707**

The RDN proposal to thin the trees in the 707 Park was discussed. It was generally agreed that we would like to avoid this being done with heavy equipment, and that we need to be very thoughtful about what to do with the trees thinned. We need to talk with Vanessa. Tabled until next meeting.

Next meeting is March 27<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm with Steve facilitating and Dyan taking notes.