

# ***Sustainable Gabriola***

## ***Meeting Notes – March 27, 2022***

**Attendees:** Ivan Bulic, Ewout van DisHoek, Fay Weller, Bob McKechnie, Tom Cameron, Corbin Keep, John Peirce, Charlotte Cameron, Joan Johnson, Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, Greg Blanchette, Steve Earle

1. **Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement** (Steve)
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Climate Change** (Steve Earle)

Deb Ferens has led a letter writing campaign to Members of Parliament urging action of Just Transition promises. Those who wish to add letters can go to <https://350.org/just-transition-day-of-action/>

In addition to advocacy, it is important to focus on local action including getting the message out to Gabriolans about what is at stake. Sustainable Gabriola needs to develop a robust set of strategies for mitigation and adaptation .

The Islands Trust is currently reviewing its Policy Statement which will have significant implications for addressing climate change. SG members are encouraged to go to: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/T> for information on the policies being proposed and to click on the Survey link to give input into the proposed policy changes. In addition, the Gabriola Lands and Trails Trust (GaLTT) along with other island nature conservancies made a submission to the Trust suggesting improvements to the policies (<https://galtt.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ITpolicyreview-jointstatement.pdf> ).

4. **Gabriola Talks** (Greg Blanchette) – need an event to bring the community together to relearn the process of productive community dialogue.

**Action:** Gabriola Health and Wellness Collaborative is planning a multi-pronged approach to engaging the community in a social-ecological planning process including a survey and a

community priority setting event. The results will be used to develop a 5-year plan for advancing priorities to improve social and environmental health.

5. **Ferry Village Path** – Ivan Bueller– The current LTC community plan requires priority be given to pedestrians and cyclists. With a grant from UBCM, Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve (VIU) planners did a study on remedies for improving pedestrian and cyclist access for Ferry Hill from Taylor Bay to the Village junction (the section from Taylor Bay to Ferry is part of BC Ferries Terminal Redevelopment Plan). RDN Director, Vanessa Craig provided guidance on what would need to be addressed to advance this agenda including: recognizing that internal capacity and staff time is an issue; recognizing that the issue is not on the RDN’s long-term or short-term agenda; and, considering bringing a delegation to advance the issue. The local planning team (GaLTT, Fay, Steve, John P, Tom Cameron, Ivan) are aiming to prepare a delegation for late spring and early summer. Ivan will get the committee together to develop a plan for moving forward. [Report done by MABRRI for the Islands Trust](#) (pdf)
6. **707 Tree Thinning** (John Peirce) – RDN Vanessa Craig has responded to the concerns raised by many in the community. The project was initiated due to fire risk with campers during the summer. It involves 93 hectares in the northwest part of the 707. There will be public consultation. Nothing will happen until there is funding to move it ahead. Director Craig’s letter is attached.
7. **Gabriola Elementary School Solar** (Steve Earle) – solar panels are to be put on roof of the school. Funding is being provided by individuals and businesses. There will be a call to the public to contribute.
8. **Earth Day Update** (Steve Earle) – The April 22nd event will involve school kids walking to the Village and back to the Commons for an information exchange event. Information will be in the Sounder. Gabriolans will be encouraged to support ES kids in celebrating Earth Day.
9. **Military Industrial Complex** Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom updates (Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley) – shared information on the impacts of military spending on the climate crisis. For more information go to: <https://wilpfcanada.ca/>
10. **Local Government Elections** (John Peirce) – Kees is not running; talked to Julie about possible candidates. John will check with Scott and Vanessa about their intentions.
11. **Solidarity with Ukraine** (Steve) – will organize something in the Village for next Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dyan will send event info to GHWC for distribution to their networks.

12. **Electoral Boundary** (Ivan) – submission to Electoral Boundaries Commission was made on March 22<sup>nd</sup> requesting that Gabriola be realigned with Nanaimo. Deadline for submissions is the end of May. For more information see: <https://elections.bc.ca/resources/maps/electoral-boundaries-commission/> During this review there is the potential to increase the number of seats by 6 in the province.
13. **Nanaimo Airport** (Bob) – poor public process; RDN overruled southern electoral districts which had prohibitions in place to reject airport expansion. Gabriola not considered to be a stakeholder. IT position is that all Trust Islands are noise sensitive areas (planes must fly at a certain height above the island). Appointed Gabriolans Don Elkington and Bob McKechnie to an advisory committee. Got agreement that planes wouldn't fly over Gabriola . . . but still allows instrument landing approach but only if they can land visually.
14. **Telus Cell Tower** (Bob) – poor public process. Divided on whether high frequency radiation is helpful or deleterious. Transmitter on Gabriola opens a new market for Telus. LTC rescinded initial protocol and adopted the protocol recommended by Industry Canada. No consultation required for antennae that are less than 15 metres high. Public consultation not allowed to consider health implications. But they must get approval from Snuneymuxw (not yet approved) and Lyackson (approved).
15. **Next meeting** –April 24, 2022; Dyan to Chair, Bob to take notes