

Notes of SG Meeting Apr 24, 2022

Present: Dyan (facilitator), Bob M (notes), Greg, Suzi, Steve, Charlotte, Joan, Deb, Tom, Vera.

Dyan welcomed those present, made the territorial acknowledgement, and finalized the agenda.

1. Local Government Election

Dyan reminded us of the elections in the fall and advocated for SG helping to get clear statements about various problems to the community for discussion in advance. Several potential candidates were discussed, Bob suggested it would be a mission worthy of Gabriola Talks, and Fay mentioned there was an abundance of good information available in the [Sustainability Plan drawn up in 2009-10](#).

2. Nanaimo Astronomy Society Dark Skies Initiative

Bob reported that Peter Danenhowe had sent in a report on a talk given at a recent meeting of the Nanaimo Astronomy Society by Roland Dechense, fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, warning of dangers of light pollution and advocating abatement – [attached](#). Several affirmed the message, citing examples such as people leaving outdoor lights on all night, the annoyance of the deck lights on the freighters anchored off Nanaimo, and the overly bright lights at South Rd and Dirksen. Bob undertook to encourage Peter to get Derek to publish the report in the Sounder

3. Climate Crisis

Deborah started by giving links to three world-scale initiatives she felt were worth mentioning:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113142> - Nations signing up to end the global scourge of plastic pollution;

<https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15> - the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15); and

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/10/canada-confirms-its-support-for-the-global-methane-pledge-and-announces-ambitious-domestic-actions-to-slash-methane-emissions.html> - which describes how Canada confirms its support for the Global Methane Pledge and announces ambitious domestic actions to slash methane emissions.

Fay followed by leading a brainstorming session on different climate change adaptation and mitigation actions we can take on Gabriola. These ideas included:

- * Lobbying fed and BC governments to stop subsidizing fossil fuels;
- * Sustainable building codes;
- * Reducing energy consumption through use of EV's and heat pumps;
- * Stopping deforestation, protect old trees, tree cutting bylaw (LTC);
- * Nature stewards program
- * Shore keepers, ocean plastics;
- * Permaculture
- * Circular economy (repair, reuse)
- * Rainwater collection
- * Regional eco-crisis – rare Dry Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystem identified as one of the highest risk ecosystems in Canada.

There were a number of suggestions regarding ways we could move forward with these ideas ranging from communication through Sounder articles to updating the community sustainability plan. Action: Greg, Fay and Joan will work together to create a plan of action.

4. Fix-It Fairs

Fay brought up the success of the Fix-It Fairs that were taking place before the pandemic shut things down, and suggested it would be good to revitalize them, possibly eventually using the new maker space under construction at GIRO. Kim Kassasian (who with Patsy organized the fairs before) is no longer available to do so, but will contribute her experience to an organizing group. Fay, Greg, Kim, and Bob undertook to explore the matter further, possible along with Robby Huston.

5. GILSS

Deborah reported on the AGM and mentioned a meeting of members from 11-3 on May 5 at Agi Hall to discuss land acquisition.

6. Light Traps

Steve reported that Dungeness crab larvae are being counted by volunteers throughout the Salish Sea using light traps, one of which is at Pages and one of which is in Descanso Bay.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Next meeting: May 29, Bob facilitating, note-taker John.