

# Notes of Sustainable Gabriola meeting 29 May 2022, start 3 p.m.

**Present:** Bob M (facilitator), Greg (notes), Fay, Deb, Betty K, Charlotte, Tom, Vanessa

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

## 1. Climate Communication Working Group

Fay (working with Greg and Joan) outlined a year-long project to generate understanding and local actions on climate with local residents. They revisited the 2010 Gabriola Community Sustainability Plan, which used local input to identify different sustainability topics and actions. There have been many successes since, which are important to acknowledge, and new challenges have arisen.

Fay circulated sheets with the topics from that report, outlining the idea of a **Gabriola 12-12-12** project — *12 months, 12 wicked problem, 12 (or more) solutions*.

Topics include: ecosystems, agriculture, energy, transportation, economics, waste management, community wellbeing & resilience, housing, water.

The idea is to focus on one topic each month, put an article in the *Souder* outlining it, followed by an ad about that month's event, likely a café-style open discussion (perhaps at the new Ground Up!), or a relevant field trip.

Some topics will be easier to organize, with people and groups already addressing them (e.g. agriculture, economics, energy); others less so (water, housing). Some topics, such as Soul, Indigenous Ways of Knowing, and a Gabriola ethos, could be incorporated into every topic.

About \$2500 in funding has been applied for. They anticipate planning over the summer, and starting in fall.

## 2. Climate crisis

Deb highlighted several climate-focussed environmental lawsuits against governments, now in courts around the world.

In BC, Sierra Club and Ecojustice are suing the BC government for failing to meet climate action targets. The gov't has missed repeated interim targets, and its current plan doesn't address its own 2025 targets.

- *Can laws save the planet?* (April 22, 2022) <https://ecojustice.ca/can-laws-save-the-planet/>
- *Lawsuit challenges B.C. for failing to meet climate action targets*  
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-lawsuit-challenges-bcs-missing-climate-action-targets/>
- *Provincial response shows the importance of the courts in ensuring climate accountability*  
<https://sierraclub.bc.ca/provincial-response-shows-the-importance-of-the-courts-in-ensuring-climate-accountability/>

German judges visited the Andes mountains, where a lake has swelled to over 30 times its previous volume due to glacial melting, posing a grave threat to cities downstream. Locals are

taking Germany's largest electricity provider, RWE, to court, alleging partial liability of the emitting country to where the damage is being felt.

- *German judges visit Peru glacial lake in unprecedented climate crisis lawsuit*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/27/peru-lake-palcacocha-climate-crisis-lawsuit>

A Massachusetts court just ruled that Exxon Mobile must face trial over lying about climate change effects. This is proceeding at state level, with more chance of success than a federal case.

- *Exxon must go to trial over alleged climate crimes, court rules*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/24/exxon-trial-climate-crimes-fossil-fuels-global-heating>

In the US, Juliana v. United States is a historic climate change lawsuit seeking to establish a constitutional right to a livable planet. Note that both Obama and Trump fought this initiative, and Biden is continuing.

- *Biden Is Preparing To Crush A Historic Climate Change Lawsuit*

<https://www.levernews.com/biden-is-preparing-to-crush-historic-climate-change-lawsuit/>

These court cases are growing in number and stature around the world. Bob noted that something similar is happening with EMR.

### **3. Food security**

Betty farmed fruit organically in Manitoba for 40 years, before moving to Gabriola 3.5 years ago. She is putting a group together to hold workshops in the Commons kitchen, helping families process and preserve produce for use over the winter. She has bought an industrial freeze-dryer unit to use for this, as freeze-drying preserves 95% of the nutrients and can last 25 years, without the continuous energy use of freezing.

Proposing to freeze-dry tomatoes in August, apples in Sept., individual meals in Oct.

She's looking to attract families to the project, and will have an article out in the *Souder* soon.

### **4. Oceans Day**

Deb noted the Oceans Day event on Sunday, 5 June, from 1–3 p.m. at Descanso Bay Regional Park (main picnic area). There will be beach walks, ocean games, plankton viewing, info booth. It's small this year, easing back into celebrating Oceans Day. (Poster attached.)

Note that Oceans Day is officially Wed-08-June.

Bob mentioned the Dungeness crab survey now ongoing in the Salish Sea, with light traps on Gabriola at Descanso Bay and Silva Bay.

### **5. GILSS (Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society)**

Deb reported on their 05-May workshop, with the board, resource people, and over a dozen interested members of the public. The society's purpose is to acquire land for community benefit (e.g. agriculture, small-scale sustainable livelihood, affordable housing). They are developing policies on how to evaluate land for best use, and many notes came from the meeting. The

society is 1.5 years old, but already has an anonymous \$300k donation. Their next meeting is 27-June.

## **6. Fixit Fair**

Bob announced the next Fixit Fair, Sat-18-June at the Timberframe. A small working group (Bob, Fay, Robbie, Greg) is revitalizing this idea.

## **7. Biochar**

Bob said that Robbie H. has built a biochar maker, a big conical steel container. There will be a biochar-making party Sat-05-June at Bob & Fay's on McConvey, starting 9 a.m. and lasting till evening. A potluck starts at about 5:30. Biochar uses waste wood (branches, deadfall) and is very good for gardens.

**Next meeting:** Sun-26-June, 3:00–4:30 at the Commons. Facilitator and note-taker TBA.

Meeting ends about 4:20.