

## SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA – NOTES OF MEETING ON May 28, 2023 – GABRIOLA COMMONS

Present: Tom C, Charlotte C, Greg B, Steve E, Bob McK, Nancy HP, John P, Bob A, Katharine P

Facilitator: Fay Weller

Notes: Deb Ferens

1. Fay opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement.
2. Water  
John P: Gina and John are meeting next Thurs to talk water ideas. Burt F is stepping aside for now.  
Bob A: interested in community water system. Recent VIHA request to Commons (and other organizations) re: backup potable water system.  
July 12-12-12 – The topic is Water. John & Gina will report any ideas arising from their meeting. Add community water system. As well as the climate café, there will be a Gertie tour to view water systems.
3. GILSS – John P  
There are talks happening on the land front, but they remain confidential for now.  
GILSS received a \$20000 federal government grant – Investment Readiness Program (IRP) to support projects and activities that have a positive social, cultural or environmental impact in communities while generating – often modest- financial return for the investors.
4. Transportation Co-op – Steve & Fay  
Gabriola Transportation Co-op Survey distributed. Please respond. There is a link on the SG website.  
There is continuing interest in Car Share Co-op (truck share, electric car, bike share); Fay was in touch with MODO and they are willing to open discussions with SG/Co-op once a share co-op is established on Gabriola.  
Discussion ensued regarding the membership share question on the survey – share amount is related to deductible.  
If possible, please complete the survey online or here is the link: Here is the link:  
<https://forms.gle/rERzMr8uEPFp8DpR7>
5. Gabriola Climate 12-12-12 – Steve, Fay and Greg  
May topic was Transportation with presentations on Gertie's history (Susan), e-bike experience (Stevie B), Ferry electrification (Steve) and a musical performance by Greg & Leah (Gabriola ferry to the tune of Edmund Fitzgerald)  
Round table topics: integrated transportation, shifting attitudes, co-ops.  
Related – EV Fair at the Commons on Sunday May 28 1-3pm  
June 12-12-12 topic is housing – energy efficient homes, tiny homes, solar panels, water collection. A Gertie tour will be arranged.
6. Climate Change (standing item) – Deb  
Warming of oceans (to replace information in Apr 30/23 notes 2.b) : Sea surface temperatures off the East Coast of North America as much as 13% C higher than 1981-2011 average.  
UN High Seas Treaty: Letter to the Editor published in Sounder May 17/23. Thanks to everyone for signing.  
Global Treaty to End Plastic Pollution: UNEP Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee is meeting in Paris France May 29 to June 2 to begin negotiations on the global framework and target. Delegates will include environmental groups, businesses, and scientists.  
Local Biodiversity goals being met (30 by 2030) 680 acres of watershed have been protected in the Comox Valley, Morrison Creek Headwaters.  
- Action: track and highlight local Vancouver Island Biodiversity goals in light of the 2021 Nature Conservancy report that Eastern VI is in the top 9 eco-crisis regions in Canada.  
Advanced AI Development "Risks to Society" – powerful tool for disinformation and misinformation.  
BC and Alberta wildfires fueling online conspiracy theories; Meteorologists facing unprecedented harassment from conspiracy theorists.

- Action: possible “Gabriola Talks” topic: Advanced AI and how it might/will affect the world and Gabriola

7. Electric Bike Rebate (Provincial Govt)– Steve & Greg

Beginning June 1, 2023 rebates on the purchase of an approved e-bike will be available to BC residents older than 19 and will be based on a person’s income. Rebates will range from \$350-\$1,400.

8. McRae Property – Nancy

Nancy reported on a meeting with several others and Nick Hock (IHAG) and owner of McRae property regarding his plans and vision for the development of the property. Nick gave his permission to share the information which is just in the beginning planning stages.

His vision for the property references the Village Vision Plan with the intent to offer more services on the island, offer more employment opportunities, and support community initiatives. Less ferry trips to town. Local economy.

Property development plans include:

A new Home & Garden Store which would be 1 ½ times the size of current IHAG store.

Second separate building: retail/artisan spaces, office space, office space for non-profits, greenhouse, feed store, possible housing units on upper storey (not necessarily affordable but for workers employed by businesses on the island, ferry workers, medical, etc),

Little barn/heritage building – tap house

Central gathering public square green space in the middle.

Rezoning will be required from LRR to Commercial or new zone – comprehensive development zone.

Next Steps:

Water & Septic plans

Prepare application to the Local Trust Committee within the next 6-9 months

Property is 3 acres in size, Zoned LRR, allows 40,000 square feet lot coverage, 3 wells on the property are dried up, has to drill a new well,

Most determined to build a new Home & Garden store - Rona franchise?

Initial SG responses to the information were largely ones of questioning the need for such development and generally not highly supportive.

9. Gertie’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Steve

Actual anniversary is June 4. Celebration will take place June 24

10. Next meeting:

- Sunday, June 25, 2023 (always the last Sunday of month), 3pm
- Facilitator: Deb F; Notes: Nancy H.