

SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA – NOTES OF MEETING JULY 30, 2023

Present: Deborah and Steve (facilitators), Katherine, Betty, Charlotte, Tom, Bob (notes), Fay, Ivan, Susan

Deborah called the meeting to order shortly after 3 pm and acknowledged the land on which it was taking place. Steve took over facilitating when she had to leave later.

Global Climate Change – Deborah

* Internal government show B.C. is weighing the merits of appointing a 'chief ecologist'. As species disappear and ecosystems collapse, the new role could help keep B.C. accountable on forthcoming biodiversity laws and policies -

<https://thenarwhal.ca/bc-chief-ecologist-role/>

* G20 Leaders' Summit. In New Delhi, September 9 - 10, 2023. The final meeting of climate and environment ministers from the world's largest economies ended July 28, 2023 without an agreement or joint statement despite pleas from leading figures for nations to show a united front on climate change as weather records shatter across the globe. A document published by the group shows countries did not agree on aiming to peak emissions by 2025, moving to clean energy, and putting a tax on carbon as a way to reduce emissions.

* COP 28 United Nations Climate Change Conference - Nov 30 to Dec 12, 2023 will take place in Dubai, UAE.

Local Climate Change – Fay

Fay reported that the CC12 event on July 20th (topic water collection, management, and conservation) had been a great success with 44 attendees, a lively conversation, and a follow up bus tour of 4 local installations. More details <https://sustainablegabriola.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/12-12-12-Water-Factsheet-1-1.pdf>. The 12th event - a discussion of various ideas that arose out the first 11 events – is scheduled for August 29th, 2022 . . . now changed to August 24, 2023.

Ferry Hill - Ivan

Ivan announced there would be a discussion at Ground Up at noon on Aug 2nd, the objective being to review BC Ferries' plan for the ferry hill and come up with a list of the top 7 priorities that will make the hill safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

More Planes Over Gabriola - Bob

Bob reported that he, Don Elkington, and Ewout van Dishoeck had met with Island Trust Council Chair Peter Luckham asking that Trust Council ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs to put pressure on the federal Transport Minister to put an end to NavCanada's plan to route wide-bodied jets landing east at YVR directly over Gabriola. Although he was receptive to the idea, it is uncertain what action was taken as a result. A second news item was receipt of a letter from the Transport Minister acknowledging the group's May 1st correspondence regarding the proposed new flight paths over Gabriola and replying that the federal government no longer regulates flight paths and that these are now the sole responsibility of NavCanada, a privately held non-profit society which has a mandate to foster growth of the airline industry. He also pointed out that NavCanada had conducted the necessary public consultation (about which many problems had been drawn to his attention) and the matter was therefore out of Transport Canada's hands.

Brush Disposal - Katherine

Katherine reported there had been a brush disposal event organized by GALT and the Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department at #2 Firehall on Saturday July 29th. People with brush to dispose of brought it to FH #2 and threw it on top of a huge pile that would later be used to provide live fire-fighting experience for GVFD personnel.

Food Security – Betty

Betty reported on her efforts to help the island become more self-sufficient in food by offering (not very well attended) gardening courses and setting up a freeze drier at her place that people can use to freeze-dry their own food for \$10 a load.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 4 pm.

Next meeting at 3 pm on Sept 24th (tbd), Bob facilitating, Nancy notes.