

Notes for Sustainable Gabriola Meeting, November 26, 2023

Nancy HP facilitating. John P taking notes. Others in attendance: Deb F., Greg B., John B., Joyce C, Dyan DF, Steve E., Suzi, Charlotte C., Tom C, Bob McK.

Land acknowledgement by Nancy.

1. Global issues of climate change - Deb
 - Deb reflected on how issues of climate change are completely eclipsed by hostilities in many conflict zones around the world.
 - The Islands Trust Council is considering joining a class action lawsuit against Big Oil on climate matters
 - There has been a \$1 Billion fund created in BC by federal and provincial governments to support Indigenous-led action to protect old growth forests as part of the campaign for 30% protection by 2030.
 - [COP-28 meeting](#) is coming up in Dubai. Two-week meeting, expecting 70,000 participants. One objective will be to assess how countries have done in meeting their climate change funding promises to date and to find funding for poorer countries to meet their objectives.
 - Pope Francis is scheduled to speak.
 - Deb had copies to sign of a letter to Cdn politicians about supporting COP-28.

2. Gabriola Weather Station – Steve

Steve and John B are going to the Nov 30 LTC meeting to recommend a new Gabriola weather station, sanctioned by Environment Canada, because the station at Somerset Farm has not been operating since 2017. Having local data to assess changes is critical. There is an indication of a 2-degree temperature rise on Gabriola over the last several years.

 - There may be Env. Canada funding available for a new weather station; if not we should look at grants.

3. Island Health and SFN Climate Change Conference – Dyan

These two groups are sponsoring a conference at the Nanaimo Conference Centre on January 24-25, 2024. Dyan encouraged us to register. *(Post meeting note: Here are the details: We respectfully invite you to join us on a collaborative journey to address the pressing need for developing new partnerships, strengthening old partnerships, healing the land and learning together amidst the climate crisis. In partnership with Snuneymuxw First Nation, Island Health invites you to a **Climate Change and Health Community Gathering** deeply rooted in the connections between climate change and its impacts on the health of people and the environment, including water, soil, air and all communities of the natural world. Island Health is in the process of developing new programs in Population and Public Health, addressing climate change impacts on health and fostering healthy environments. It has joined forces with Snuneymuxw First Nation to learn more about existing climate action, community needs and partnership opportunities in the Island Health*

service area and Snuneymuxw territory, respectively. Because of the recent challenges within the region caused by droughts and flooding, water was chosen as the central theme for this Gathering. The idea is to learn from one another about climate change impacts on health, as well as about past and ongoing projects that help strengthen community climate resilience. We will also explore how we can develop practical solutions together to be better prepared. Topics include but are not limited to water scarcity, seafood safety, food security, ecosystem co-governance and flood prevention, etc.

Where: In-person at Vancouver Island Conference Centre (101 Gordon Street, Nanaimo)

When: Wednesday, January 24th & Thursday, January 25th, 2024

Who: Our target audience includes local governments, First Nations, and Métis communities. While leaders are welcome, our primary aim is to engage and empower dedicated staff actively working on climate change, health &/or water.

Cost: FREE (travel bursaries available if needed)

How to Register: Register on [Eventbrite](#) to save your seat and stay updated. Limited space is available, so please register early. We look forward to seeing you there!

4. Camping on the Commons – Steve
Problem getting worse, especially in summer. Issues of garbage and fire risk. Includes brushy area at back of Folk Life Village property. There seems to be agreement that asking people to “move-on” does nothing to solve the underlying problem of unhoused people on Gabriola.
 - Commons has 2-3 patrols per week and RCMP also aware of the situation and patrol the area as well.
 - Commons recently organized a meeting to address the issue; reps attended from Poetry Gabriola, PHC, Folklife Village, a neighbour, and the Commons. They are planning another meeting and they hope to get participation from more adjacent organizations (School, Rollo Centre being specifically mentioned).

5. Idea from Tobi Elliott re a gift to SFN to add substance to land acknowledgements and express gratitude for work done by Chief and Council this term – Dyan
 - At last SG meeting \$66 was collected for a not-yet-decided purpose re reconciliation, and is in the Island Futures bank account.
 - Serious concern was expressed about doing something like a gift without being sure how well it would be perceived by SFN. We need discussion on an Elders-to-Elders level to come up with a constructive process to add substance to land acknowledgements.

- As an alternative to doing land acknowledgements at our meetings, Dyan suggested having a “Reconciliation Moment” at each meeting where someone (volunteer at previous meeting) would pick one topic out of the Truth and Reconciliation Report and lead a brief discussion to help us understand that topic more fully.
 - Deb F offered to do the first Reconciliation Moment, at the January 28 SG meeting.
6. Transportation Commission - Steve
- Steve will propose to LTC to create such a body (somewhat analogous to the Ferry Advisory Committees established by BC Ferries) that would speak for the community and provide advice to the three silos of government (IT, MOTI and RDN) on transportation issues.
7. Heat pumps and Yellow Heat heater – Bob Mck.
- The Energy Coop has installed its 1,000th heat pump on Gabriola – a very impressive total. They are almost caught up with the Covid-years backlog. Market may be somewhat saturated now.
 - Yellow Heat heater:
 - o *Background from Sept 24/23 meeting notes: Island Futures is experimenting with a Yellow Heat heater that uses waste vegetable oil, and they have purchased a unit. One of the island farms has agreed to an experiment to use this heater in one of the farm’s greenhouses this fall and next spring.*
 - o This test project has now started, to evaluate the heater at one of the Garden Bed’s greenhouses, in hopes of extending the season for food production.
8. The film, “The Village of Lovers – What Will It Take to Re-generate Trust?”, will be shown at the Phoenix Auditorium on Friday, Dec. 8 at 430 PM. This documentary explores the radical peace research community of Tamera in southern Portugal.
[\(https://thevillageoflovers.com/\)](https://thevillageoflovers.com/)
9. **Next Meeting Sunday, January 28, 3-4:30 PM at the Commons. John P to facilitate and Fay will take notes.**