

Climate-12 Action Team Convenors meeting — notes

Thursday, 18 Jan. 2024, 3:00 pm, Zoom and VIRL

Facilitator: Steven Earle; notes: Susan Swift

Present: Fay Weller (Economic Change/ Steering Com), Howard Bashaw (Water), Steven Earle (Transportation/ Steering Com), Susan Swift (Ag & Food Security/ Steering Com) Michelle & Doug Smith (Ag & Food Security) Tawny MacLachlan Capon (Health & Wellness), Ewout Van Dishoeck (Biodiversity), Greg Blee (Arts & Culture / Steering Com)

Announcements & Events

- The Island Trust is working on an update to our Official Community Plan (OCP). Climate-12 is holding an OCP Visions-2050 workshop with substantial refreshments **Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7:00–9:00** [note: **date may have to be changed**] at GU. We plan to have poetry and drumming as well discussion about changing the OCP to include climate adaptation and mitigation measures.
- The C-12 Steering Committee is planning a “Neighbourhoods” event in **April** at the Community Hall. With a big map of the island on the floor, we can stand on the map (where we live) and see our neighbours. We will facilitate a conversation about how neighbours might address climate issues and/or emergencies, and which communication methods might be helpful. We may talk about defining neighbourhoods for ease of communicating and organizing in the future.
- Michelle and Doug Smith are launching the new Gabriola Community Seed Bank on **Sunday, Feb. 25, 12–2** at the Agi Hall. Sal Dominelli from Sweet Rock Farm will give a presentation on Seed Saving.
- Fix-It Fair **Saturday, April 13, 2–5** at Agi Hall.

Team updates

Economic Change (Fay) — Discussed what indicators each Team would like to see to measure long term change. Some Teams already had baseline indicators. Hoping to have the survey ready in May or June. Some groups might not need to work on the questions in advance. For the food group it might be “How often to you buy locally made and locally produced food?”

The aims for the OCP might be different, since our goals are more tied to climate change, but our thinking should be aligned. How can we achieve adaptation goals as well as reduce GHG?

Talked about about how the government registry process for cooperatives has become easier, so may hold a workshop about that in Spring.

Plan on having 3 Fix-It Fairs per year and have set April 13, 2–5 for the next one. Plan on having other tables there along the lines of repair and circular economy (such as

mending). The summer event would be done at the same time as a community garage sale. An option is to combine the Fix-It Fair with other efforts (e.g. Transportation and Seed Bank). Looking for people to organize the Tool Library.

Biochar & compost (Gerry Bowes, via email) — Waiting to get feedback from Agri Coop's January 23 board meeting re a Gabriola solution for Waste as a Resource. Hopefully, they'll join Hugh Skinner of GaLTT, Carol Waldo of FireSmart, along with Sustainable Gabriola and the Climate-12 initiative, to explore this further.

Ag & Food Security (Fay) — Michelle & Doug Smith reported on the new Gabriola Community Seed Bank on Gabriola. Six different seed companies donated to GCSB. They will provide seed and ask that people return a portion of the seed that they save. The purpose is to build up a local seed bank with seeds acclimatized to local conditions for emergencies and food security. Looking for Gabriola specific seeds or strains. Yet to connect with Indigenous folks re: foraging and heritage seed. Also will track what grows best on different parts of the island. If we ever need to, we can distribute seeds where they are most productive to maximize yields. Tawny: "Dave Bodaly, who is Snuneymuxw, gave me a little jar of celery seeds that used to grow wild on Gabriola." Efforts to match garden mentors continues and the library has a display up, which is going to be expanded.

Health & Wellness (Tawny) — We are creating a map of the 50 identified health and wellness organizations. Have a funding proposal to hire a Community Well-Being Coordinator (RDN) but, are now re-evaluating the group focus, since the Coordinator will be paid for what the group is doing already. There is interest in organizing neighbourhoods beyond what we have for ESS. The number of people attending the H&W Team is growing. H&W wants to collaborate on the Climate-12 Neighbourhood event in April.

Water (Howard, standing in for Joan) — Group plans to meet Jan. 25th; continuing to work on three zones: 1. Info document for households on how to manage water; 2. Being proactive about catchment and storage, maybe co-op purchases; 3. Protecting watersheds. Joan has reached out to the Streamkeepers. Anyone who has info, please share and we'll put it into our "think tank."

Questions about: How people are managing watering their gardens? How is the cistern working at the Commons? This group is more about increasing knowledge than providing inspections and assessment.

Biodiversity (Ewout) — No meetings, no sure if the Team is operating or not. Need to meet with Greg and Deb F to discuss.

Transportation (Steve) — Number one project is Ferry Hill and making alternatives to motor vehicles (walking and biking) safer. Preparing a survey of people in the Village,

ferry line-up, and ferry parking lot, to discover what they think needs to be done. Have started a neighbourhood ride-share pilot project in the Seafood district. Have discussed “Car Stops” EVs and E-bike shares. On the topic of ebikes, thinking that we could offer “Safe Biking” course for those getting back into it on Gabriola. Ideas: a “Bike Day” or “Critical Mass” ride. Safety course could be online and/or combined with Fix-It Fair and bicycle repair.

Arts & Culture (Greg) — Now have a list of local artists, possibly for a cafe discussion about how artists can help with a cultural shift toward our climate goals. (Arlene Carson is interested.) Also touched on “community spirit,” and how a thriving arts community can contribute to that.

Overall Comments:

- The more that we do that is focused in neighbourhoods, the better: biochar, ride-shares, food growing, etc. We can talk about emergency communications, support systems, gardening "pods", decentralized but shared compost or water catchment facilities, etc. Ultimately, we could establish a network of communications between neighbourhoods that we can actually define and draw on a map. C-12 Steering Committee to correspond with Health & Wellness (Diane) about collaborating on the neighbourhood event in April.
- In general, let's concentrate on live events and use the documents with links as resources (Bike Safety, Home Water Management, etc.)

Next meeting: Thursday February 15th, 3:00pm at the library

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