

# Climate-12 Action Team Conveners meeting #7

Thursday, 21 March, 2024 at 3:00 pm, library

8 people in attendance — Fay facilitated, Joan took notes

## Action Team reports

### Transportation — Steve

- We have now formally created a Citizens Transportation Advisory Society and we will be meeting soon to figure out what that organization will do. This group can be comprised of anyone with transportation concerns and can provide advice to the MOT, RDN, IT about Gabriola transportation changes.
- We are planning a bicycle safety and skills course for adults to give them the confidence needed to head out onto Gabriola's trails and roads. We hope to do this through Gabe Rec in May.
- We met with GaLTT to talk about the offroad trail network and how some of those trails can be designated as pathways to get from A to B, in addition to being for recreation.

### Buildings & Energy — Hans

- Group met March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Reviewed survey – made priority list.
- No update from Rob on progress on renovation.
- Working on draft article for the *Sounder* that will include a thermal energy kit that can be made available.

### Water — Joan, Howard

- Small working group of 4 is putting together a water information and problem-solving guide for everyone. Steve Usher is part of the group and will input information when his work is not so busy.
- Local Trust announced \$50K funding for a Gabriola water balance assessment (in/out).
- Discussion about Water Management group – well records and test wells. Steve Usher, Jeremy Baker and Jenny McLeod could provide more information.
- Information could be provided to the consultant hired to do the water balance assessment.

### Health & Wellness – Tawny

- A Health and Wellness staff position has been approved by the RDN. This position will collaborate with the 50 organizations on the Island that have health and wellness involvement and will identify gaps in services.
- Jackie (working for the RDN) helps organize emergency services attended a Gabriola meeting and brought maps. Shirley attended the meeting but did not provide information on where emergency equipment is stored or the location of

emergency centre(s). She said that in the case of an emergency, people are advised to stay at home.

- Discussion: green burial site – 900 signatures on petition. Concerns raised about candles and fires at these ceremonies. Water should be available and access for fire truck

### **Art & Culture** — Greg (unable to attend but provided this report)

Talked to Deb D., longtime artist and arts administrator.

Q: How to use arts & culture to address the issues?

1. Raise the profile of sustainability and climate change.
2. Celebrate the successes (e.g. GERTIE, GIRO, mending group at library) — with *Souder* ads, signs at the ferry, notice boards ...
3. Keep focused on why you are doing it. What are you hoping for? Who is your audience?

Points:

- Change how we feel about climate success. Tell people how to *be* a climate success.
- Make sure the local "influencers" (social leaders) are invited and involved.
- Be subtle. Don't hit people over the head with the "climate" theme; make it implied, not stated.

Project ideas:

- Make bus travel sexy: Design and construct some wonderful GERTIE bus stops, through an architectural design contest and engaging skilled woodworkers from the timber-frame school. Make it an island attraction, like the Chemainus murals.
- Events in natural settings, e.g. a concert picnic in Elder Cedar reserve, or events on farms, gardens. Deb has an Island contact for funding.
- A roundtable of artists, to discuss the arts' role in climate and sustainability

Discussion:

- Art and culture seen through a lens that infiltrates all groups. A way to deepen understanding through different expressions (song, poems, visual art, stories, etc)
- Is this to gather art? Artists have something to say, We need imagination and creativity to get out of the box we are in

### **Food & Agriculture** — Susan

- Met with Agi Co-op. Their plan is to have a food hub building. They have submitted a zoning change application that will take about 2 years to process. A further 6 months to obtain a development permit, Then they will be hiring. Their main push has been fund raising (have \$2M) and communication. They will need someone to handle the building component.
- Betty and Susan are hosting a learning how to garden at the Commons group and also have 50 people signed up for garden mentoring.
- An article has been submitted to the *Souder*

## **Biodiversity — Deb**

- Key questions to the group re data. What baseline data is available and appropriate?
- Considerations:
  - health of forests
  - Indigenous ways of knowing – relationship with land
  - OCP has Island Futures section on climate change adaptation
- OCP – separate project – development permits update (sensitive areas)

Discussion: go on RDN site maps, they show geography including heights

## **Economic Change — Fay**

- Most groups have responded with their indicators.
- Questions about neighbourhoods and health and well-being.
- Hopefully the survey will go out in May but will be circulated prior to that.
- Fix-it fair April 13 – fix it rather than buy something new – a biochar presentation.
- Support already happening (eg tool library).

Discussion re Garage sale / Flea market.

**Next meeting** (third Thursday): Thursday April 18th, 3:00pm at the library

## **Other events**

### **Neighbourhood Gathering/Mapping event — Sat. 11 May, 1–3 at the Community Hall**

- Climate-12-12-12 events identified the importance of neighbourhoods
- Convenors plus volunteers will organize the event
- Large grid map on the floor of the community hall
- Tables including RDN

Discussion:

- Jackie [ESS coordinator] will come to the May 11<sup>th</sup> Neighbourhood Mapping event
- other Gulf Islands have obtained money to create neighbourhood pods
- Map available that indicates locations of 60 horses on Gabriola
- Map available for GERTIE routes
- Museum mapping
- RDN site maps
- Have to make people want to attend the event and know what it's about
- Share broader vision
- Confusion (or perhaps inclusion) re emergency plans
- Support for people in a geographical area
- Perhaps several questions could be suggested for neighbourhoods to consider
- Whose in the neighbourhood

- Is biodiversity happening in neighbourhoods
- Are there water issues in the neighbourhood
- Are there vegetable, fruit, berries, other edible plants in the neighbourhood

Sat-23-Mar — **OCP Visioning** presentation at the Haven's Phoenix Theatre

Wed-27-Mar, 6:30–8 PM (Zoom) — **Rural Islands Economic Partnership forum** – theme “Being Prepared for Climate Change Economic Disruptions.” Susan and Greg will attend, talk about Climate-12 project.

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