

Sustainable Gabriola

May 26th, 2024 meeting notes

Agenda

- Introductions and reconciliation
- Fire Dept. on solar panels, Matt Dow
- HWC (DDF)
- Land Stewards Society
- Climate news (Deb F)
- Wildfire hazards
- Climate 12 Gabr'hoods
- Trans Mountain Salish Sea
- GTS Speed Limit conversation Thursday June 13th 7 pm
- SG Climate Communications Strategy
- Gabriola Climate Action Charter

Present: Deb F, Charlotte, Tom, Suzi, Joan, Howard, Karen, Deb D, Katharine, Jenny, Bob, Dyan, Steve (notes), Nancy (facilitator)

1) Deb D. provided a reconciliation reflection about our use of the phrase "...live, work and play in the unceded territory of...", and how it might be poorly received by first nations.

2) Matt Dow wasn't present for discussion funding for solar panels.

3) **Health and Wellbeing Collaborative.** Dyan notes that HWC has been allocated RDN property tax funding for a part time Community Well Being Coordinator. RFQ is being issued for an organization to manage the position and then hire someone. It will be a one-year trial, but the funding is ongoing. Members from SG are encouraged to work with HWC to advance issues related to sustainability and health. Karen is to be the new rep. from SG to the HWC.

4) **Gabriola Land Stewards Society** report. John says that there has been significant turnover of the organizational representatives on the board. Tim Leadem has given two presentations on the Douglas Treaties.

5) **Climate News.** Deb reports that flight turbulence increase is related to climate change. 55% increase in severe turbulence. Other "hidden" effects of warming: sleep loss due to hot nights, worse allergies (pollen), ticks and Lyme (and other disease vectors), more wildfires and smoke, fewer babies, power grid issues, disruption of education, injuries for workers, more crime, less coffee will be grown. Nanaimo: a new transitional housing complex on F.N. land has a mini-forest made up mostly of native plants. Lantzville now has a new land designation to cultivate future old growth. International court in Strasbourg has ruled that Switzerland's failure to deal with climate change was a violation of human-rights.

6) Wildfire hazards (no report)

7) **Climate 12 Gabr'hoods:** The Community Hall was buzzing on Saturday May 11th, with over 70 people cultivating neighbourhood connections at Sustainable Gabriola's "Gabr'hoods" event. A giant map of Gabriola was laid out in blue and green painter's tape on the floor and participants stood at their house location to meet neighbours standing nearby. Many got down on hands and knees, eagerly adding individual streets to the map, along with sticky notes showing where they lived and community assets like AEDs, farm stands, and little free libraries. Speakers from four neighbourhoods—Malaspina, Island View, Seafood, McConvey—related what inspired them to organize, what activities they shared, and how they stayed in touch. RDN's Jacquie Chan (Emergency Social Services) and Shirley Nicholson (Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program) also spoke about the considerably safety benefits of neighbourhood organizing. By end of the day, we'd identified close to 20 Gabr'hoods in various states of organization.

8) **Trans-Mountain Pipelines and Salish Sea:** There will be a 7-fold increase in tanker traffic and so of course oil spills. Deb wonders if there is some action that we can take. Will IRATE do anything? Maybe not, it doesn't feel like there is anything we can do now. Dyan: Sue big oil, sue governments? Katharine: first tanker has gone out. Joan: TMX went ahead because Canada had made a commitment to China to build it and deliver the oil.

9) **Gabriola Transportation Society** – It's a new society that has been formed to engage in conversations on climate issues on Gabriola, and to provide feedback to others (MoTI, RDN, IT) when there are plans for transportation infrastructure and regulations on Gabriola. The first GTS event is a forum on speed limits June 13th at 7 pm at the Rollo.

10) **Climate Action Communications Plan.** Dyan emphasized the importance of working with SFN, giving people factual information, inspiring them to take action, and supporting them in doing that. Strategies for communication. We would appreciate SG feedback on the strategies. Nancy: does the communications plan need to make the case that if someone believes that (as an individual) they have virtually no climate impact then they don't need to do anything. We need to show why one person makes a difference (including by setting an example). Katharine: The Conservative (party) perspective: Canada makes so little difference in the scheme of things so it doesn't matter what we do. The country is big, it takes energy to get around in a big country. We should remove references to the elderly from the comms plan. Bob: should there be a central clearing house for information on climate and the environment (SG website?).

11) **Gabriola Climate Action Charter.** First drafted in 2019. It's a statement that everyone (businesses, organizations, individuals) can sign on to and make corresponding commitments. We could do a big Climate Action Charter sign (with the same design) at the ferry. Joan: "I love it." Nancy: make it shorter. Deb D: What does respecting indigenous

values mean to different entities? Deb F: we will need to approach businesses and organizations individually. The working group will beta-test this with a couple of “friendly” organizations and/or businesses and then bring it back to SG.

Next meeting should be June 23rd because June 30th is a holiday weekend. Steve and Dyan both can't be there so next Facilitator is Bob M. and Note taker is Fay W.