

Sustainable Gabriola -- MINUTES

October 27th, 2024

Attendees: Nancy H-P (facilitator), Jinny H, John P, Ivan B, Deb F, Howard B, Charlotte C, Saige A, Kes A, Susan S, Steven E, Shelagh H, Bob A, Tom C, Dyan D-F (recorder), Suzi H, Steve U.

1. **BC Election** (Ivan) – *What now for the environment?*

We discussed the implications of the BC election and what it might mean for environmental initiatives.

2. **Condition of our Roads** (Janice Power) – Janice was not at the meeting.

ACTION: Ask Janice if she wants to come to the November meeting to discuss this.

3. **Gabriola Health and Wellness Collaborative (GHW) Report** (Kes) – Kes shared information about the new Community Wellbeing Service. Carol Ferguson has been hired as the Community Wellbeing Coordinator. There are a number of initiatives underway including a Poisoned Drug Action Table (PDAT), and an Extreme Weather Action Table (EWAT). Kes noted that Bob Andrew had raised the issue of homelessness and that there was a suggestion that *Gabriola Talks* (GT) could host a community conversation to complement the work already being done by the PDAT and the EWAT. Members of Gabriola Talks present at the meeting (Steve and Dyan) agreed that it would be something that Gabriola Talks could take on pending agreement of Fay W and Katharine P. GT was strongly encouraged to bring in the voices of the unhoused throughout the process.

ACTION: Confirm agreement of Fay and Katharine. Put the homelessness engagement discussion on the agenda for the next SG.

4. **Gabriola Island Land Steward Society (GILSS) report** – (John)

GILSS is a community land trust as opposed to conservation land trust. There are about 100 such trusts. A mature process exists. There is a coordinating network of land trusts and two representatives came out to meet with GILSS. Oct. 16th Sounder describes what GILSS has been up to (e.g., developing policy, becoming more visible, investigated 13 out of 31 properties, need more money (have \$500 k and access to \$500 k in social financing as loan). Dyan D-F asked whether there was a space for more board members.

ACTION: Dyan D-F to ask Sybil Frei if there is room for another organization on the Board and, if yes, to see if the Health Care Foundation would be interested in having a rep on the Board.

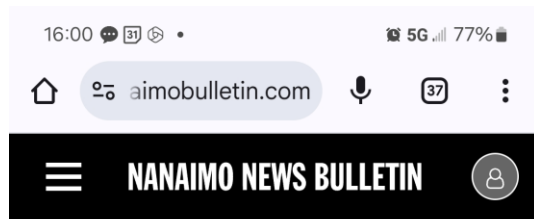
5. **Global Climate Report** (Deb)

See notes in Appendix A below.

ACTION: Deb has drafted letter to support a global non-proliferation of fossil fuels treaty. To be presented at COP meeting in Azerbaijan. Draft letter distributed to members who wish to sign to do so. Deb to email electronic version to Jinny H.

6. **Fix-It Fair** Nov. 3 (Greg) to be held at AGI Hall 2:00 to 4:00

7. **Rezoning of 243 Acres on Phoenix Way** (beside Harmac) (Bob A)



The company, a subsidiary of Nanaimo Forest Products Ltd, has submitted a zoning application to turn 98.3 hectares west of the trail, 950 and 1260 Phoenix Way, into an industrial zone, with an average 100-metre buffer between the industrial zone and the trail. Before it can be re-zoned from rural resource to industrial, the application requires city council approval. An information session was held at Moose Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

"We don't have any concrete plans at this point, our goal would be to market it once we get the [industrial] zoning that we're looking for," said Ryan Prontack, Harmac's maintenance and engineering manager. "We'd market it to businesses that are interested in being on our site, they might have synergies with our businesses and be able to share resources back and forth."

Nanaimo currently faces a shortfall of



Bob A attended a public information regarding the rezoning of this property. Owners want to rezone to Industrial 4 from rural residential; Community Plan designates it as Industrial. Currently the property is forested including Garry Oak. The proposed plans will result in the property being denuded. It is right across the channel from Gabriola. Application has already been made.

Questions were asked about where Snuneymuxw was in this process and the RDN.

ACTION: Suggestion that Nanaimo and Area Land Trust (NaLT) be contacted. Bob will contact Trustees and NaLT.

8. Update on *Living into the Earth Emergency* course (Shelagh H.)

Course will soon be underway. From 3rd week in January to 3rd week in March. Shelagh is offering the course twice, simultaneously, once in the daytime with lunch and one in the evening with supper. It's preferable for an attendee to stick with once series or the other. Cost is donation based (consistent with values of a gift economy). Received \$500 grant from Gabriola Auxiliary and Commons providing rent free space.

[www.Http//Talkearthemergency.com](http://Talkearthemergency.com) Arts Council will lend video equipment. Every event has a meal. Registration opens: November 7th (2.5 hours x 9 events).

ACTION: Distribute information on our e-list. Shelagh will send something to Suzi.

9. Gabriola Carbon Action Project (Steve)

People that travel can contribute to fund to offset the carbon impact. Money will be used here on Gabriola. There will be a website where you can cost your carbon impact and opportunity to send the money to Gabriola projects to use the offsets. (e.g., GaLTT, GERTIE, Commons, Gabriola agriculture). Being done through the Blue Heron Learning Society.

10. Gabriola Health Care Foundation (GHCF) AGM (Dyan)

AGM Board and Committee recruitment is underway. SG members encouraged to share this information (in Sounder on October 30th)

Foundation has received Health Authority approval to use rainwater collection for potable water source for commercial use. Three new cisterns being installed. Foundation is happy to share learnings from the process (contact Marc Herrmann). The Foundation has included the climate crisis in its strategic plan (anticipating and mitigating impacts on population and resources).

11. Next Meeting Sunday November 24 at 3pm

Facilitator: Fay

Notes: Deb

Reconciliation Moment: ?

Appendix A:

1. COP 16 – Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Oct 21 – Nov 1 Cali, Colombia.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/cop16-montreal-call-2022-cali-204200125.html>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1155931>

The UN biodiversity summit known as [COP16](#) officially opened in Cali, Colombia. Considered the world's most important event to conserve biodiversity will host some 15,000 attendees, including a dozen heads of State, 103 ministers and over 1,000 international journalists.

Aiming to promote international cooperation, agree on investments to protect ecosystems and strengthen global environmental policies, COP16 takes as its roadmap the [Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF), a landmark plan to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity for 2030, adopted at COP15 in Canada.

Secretary-General António Guterres urged delegations from some 190 countries to “make peace with nature” and shore up a plan to stop habitat loss, save endangered species, and preserve our planet's precious ecosystems

The event aims to continue the dialogue initiated at COP15 with the Montreal Call, a plea for transformative changes to our lifestyles, our economies and our values. Some inspiring and concrete initiatives being shared by Quebec Civil Society attendees are aimed at making transformative changes in our economic and value systems and include: the City of Montréal's circular economy roadmap, the Government of Quebec's law on planned obsolescence, the Government of Canada's fight against single-use plastics.

2. COP 29 Nov 11 – 24 Baku, Azerbaijan

<https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-climate-change-conference-unfccc-cop-29>

This event will include the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29), the 19th meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 19), and the sixth meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 6) that will convene to complete the first enhanced transparency framework and the new collective quantified goal on finance, among other matters.

Recommended Action: Letter to Prime Minister Trudeau (copy Stephen Guillebeault, Minister of the Environment and Lisa Marie Barron, MP Nanaimo Ladysmith) urging the Canadian government and representatives to the COP 29 Conference to support a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.