

Sustainable Gabriola -- MINUTES

November 24, 2024

Attendees: Fay, Joan, Suzi H, Michelle G, Ivan B, Greg, Bob A, Kess, Deb B, Nancy H-P, John P, Sophia, Bob M, Tom C, Charlotte C, Betty, John.

Facilitator: Fay W

Notes: Deb F

1. Reconciliation Moment: Joan J
2. Rapidly Changing Public Discourse: Ivan
 - US election: climate change denial and environment issues ignored
 - COP 29: fossil fuel – business as usual. Oil lobby groups.
 - Alberta: “Carbon is source of life”, abandoning Net zero
 - Nanaimo Bulletin – getting rid of bicycle lanes, roads are for vehicles not bicycles.
 - How to shift the focus from reactionary to progressive?
 - Discussion points:
 - Nanaimo City Council – Donut economics
 - Norway – 27% EVs; after next year – no combustion engine sales
 - Active young people
 - US voters – states are supporting progressive initiatives
 - Many still struggling with COVID effects
 - Negative stuff is sensational and that’s what we are being fed
3. Biochar – Fay
 - Biochar group (Robbie H, Mary W and Fay) planning a spring workshop
 - There are plans to purchase a (portable biochar kiln from Salt Spring Island
4. Gabriola Health and Well Being Collaborative – Kess
 - Carol Ferguson has been hired for the coordinator position
5. Global Climate News – Deborah
 - Report Attached
6. Gabriola Road Conditions (concern raised by Janice Power)
 - Discussion points:
 - Carol Ferguson will attend Transportation Society Meeting
 - Poor road conditions keep speed limit down
 - The cost of repairs is huge
 - Roads on Gabriola defined as Agriculture based on 1950s designation
 - Can we citizens just get out there and fix the potholes?
 - At the All Candidates Meeting, Sheila Malcolmson (MLA)- Gabriola roads built on old logging roads.
 - Roads are dangerous because situation has been ignored for too long
 - Action can happen fast though – reminder of fatal accident many years ago at the ferry terminal-Nanaimo intersection that didn’t have lights. With community pressure lights went up pretty fast.

7. Gabriola Land Stewards Society – John P
Michelle Graham has joined the GILSS Board
Fundraising Plan is underway
8. Rezoning of 243 Acres on Phoenix Way (beside Harmac) – Bob A
Bob made a presentation to the Local Trust Committee concerning the details of the rezoning.
LTC considering a letter to Nanaimo City Council to ask that the GLTC be considered as a referral on the rezoning.
9. Green Burial – Sophia
Green Burial Society has been working on this for several years.
MOTI refused the request that the Honeysuckle site be considered
Some pressure from MLA Malcolmson asking MOTI to reconsider Society request.
10. Recent Power Outage – weather bomb cyclone (3 days and more for some island areas
Discussion:
911 was down in some areas.
Dec 2018 – last time 911 was down.
Fire Department – using shortwave radios
Telus – improved cell communication
With trees down across many roads – emergency vehicles could not get through
Battery backups – out after a few hours
Who’s responsible for 911 (Firehall?)
Satellite communications
Emergency preparation is on the Fire Dept website – there is a plan
Landlines – some worked, some didn’t
Newer I-phones have ability to text through satellites
Large number of generators on the island – fossil fuel infrastructure
Noisy Huge generators go on automatically even when owners might be off-island
Long line ups at co-op gas pumps
Going off-grid with solar panels
Community Hall & Rollo are emergency center with generators and as muster stations.
This storm did not meet the provincial emergency level
Gabriola harder hit than other Gulf Islands (due to wind direction)
Storm – Bomb cyclone – pressure lowers rapidly, Ecosystem indicator, warmer oceans, these types of storms will probably increase in number & severity.
Shirley Nicolson (Emergency Preparedness) – will visit neighbourhoods
There were many good news stories – Canso area example of neighbours working together through the storm.
11. No December Meeting
Next Meeting: Sunday, Jan 26, 2025
Facilitator: Dyan
Notes: Nancy

Nov 24, 2024

Global Climate News

1. COP 16 Colombia

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/11/1156456>

The world's largest biodiversity summit, known as COP16, concluded in Colombia, with several landmark decisions, including first ever agreements on nature's genetic data and on recognising people of Africa descent and Indigenous Peoples as key stewards in conservation efforts. Efforts to get a seat at the table have spanned three decades

Countries did manage to find consensus on a new benefit-sharing mechanism for genetic resources – known as the “Cali fund” –

However, two issues remained unresolved, both instrumental for implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Framework for Biodiversity, a global plan that was adopted during COP15 in Canada to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

One was the lack of a definition for a financing model to bring the biodiversity protection plan to reality. Calculations indicate that \$700 billion is required to implement the framework.

The other pending issue is a monitoring mechanism to measure the progress of countries in complying with the roadmap to protect biodiversity.

2. COP 29 Nov 11 – 24 Baku, Azerbaijan

This summit had been dubbed the ‘climate finance COP’, and representatives from all countries were seeking to establish a new, higher climate finance goal.

In the closing days at COP29, **negotiating teams from the developed and developing worlds were deadlocked over a final deal**, with reports that representatives for least developed countries and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOIS) had walked out of the talks

Finally, Rich nations pledged to contribute at least \$300 billion annually to the global fight against climate change will replace the existing \$100 billion goal that is due to expire in 2025. with an overall climate financing target to reach “at least \$1.3 trillion by 2035”.

Developing nations who had sought over \$1 trillion in assistance called the agreement “insulting”.

The “transition away from fossil fuels” was not included in the Agreement though it was included in COP28. Watered down from “Urgent Phase Out of Fossil Fuel”

Open Letter to Reform: a critical open letter was circulated mid-way through the fractious summit. signed by more than 20 experts, including former UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon, former Irish president Mary Robinson and the former head of the UN climate body that runs the annual COP summits, Christiana Figueres.

UN COP climate talks need to be reformed,

Called for: shift from negotiation to implementation, Smaller, more frequent meetings, tied to specific goals, actionable promises and accountability .reducing/eliminating fossil fuel lobbyists. Putting pressure on our own governments to force them to make commitments that are accountable.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev kicked off COP29 with a fiery speech, criticizing ‘Western fake news’ on greenhouse gas emissions, and calling oil and gas a ‘[gift of God.](#)’ Separately, days before the conference began, Azeri COP29 chief executive Elnur Soltanov was [caught](#) on video telling an undercover activist from Global Witness, posing as a representative from a fossil fuel it would be developing oil and gas ‘perhaps forever.’

Elizabeth May and Green MP Mike Morrice opted not to attend COP29 in person because of Azerbaijan's [recent ethnic cleansing](#) of Armenians.

This year at least 32 Canadian representatives linked to fossil fuels are in Azerbaijan for the summit called COP29.

Since last year's summit oil and gas companies have gone on the offensive, according to InfluenceMap. Over the past year, the think tank [tracked more than 100 fossil fuel companies](#) and industry associations to uncover how they're trying to derail climate action. It identified 2,400 instances where companies and industry associations advanced anti-transition narratives.

"Pushing narratives that cast doubt on clean solutions while trying to shift the focus to affordability and energy security, instead of climate change, is a key part of their strategy, according to the think tank.

3. COP 30 – Brazil

COP 30 will be held in Brazil at the end of 2025