

Sustainable Gabriola

Notes of April 27th, 2025 meeting

Present: Jennifer, Joan, Fay (facilitating), John, Nancy, Greg, Katharine, Steve (notes), Bob, Tom, Charlotte, Dyan

1) Reconciliation — Joan talked about the late Murry Sinclair as one of the most experienced reconciliators in Canada, and she played a short audio clip of him speaking. She talked about our need to have a relationship with the land.

2) Transportation — Steve introduced the “Gabriola Safe Roadways Initiative”, a project of the Gabe Transportation Society (which is an offshoot from SG’s Climate-12 project). The goal of the GSRI is to give future LTC’s a basis for advocating for changes to road regulations that will increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists. The proposal includes:

- establishment of a new, lower default speed for Gabriola’s roads (30 or 40 km/h, instead of the current 50 km/h);
- reduction of speed limits on parts or all of the major routes (e.g., North and South Roads), possibly to 50 km/h throughout;
- speed limit reduction to 30 km/h on North Rd. from the Post Office to Tin Can Alley;
- extension of the Village Trail to the ferry; and
- safety improvements around the ferry terminal (including a crosswalk).

There was discussion and feedback.

3) Stewart Prest presentation — Fay summarized Stewart’s presentation (he’s a Political Science prof at UBC), which was sponsored by Gabriola Talks! and the *Sunder* on April 24th at the Rollo. It was very engaging, although a little off-topic at times. About 30 people present. Stewart talked about polling and modelling, proportional representation, and presented polling data by age and gender. Alas, we didn’t come away with a clear vision on who to vote for!

4) Health & Well-Being Collaborative — Dyan summarized a report made by Kes. The Chamber is doing three sessions on collaborations for non-profits, starting tomorrow, Monday 28th, and then two more later.

Gabriola Healthcare Fdn. presented their strategic plan to the Collaborative, with a focus on care for Gabriolans on Gabriola. We could invite Jeff M to make a presentation to Sustainable Gabriola. They are also proposing an event on climate change and health.

RDN master plan on parks and trails (May 10th, 11 to 1:30, Goat Barn).

Two half-day workshops are planned for health care issues and the mission of HWBC on Sunday May 4th and Sunday May 18th (from 1 to 3 pm) at the Community Hall.

5) Climate-12 Action Teams

Neighbourhoods: had a meeting yesterday (Susan, Kes, Greg). The question is should Climate-12 keep doing this or should it be transferred to the HWBC. The focus is to bring in

more people. Katharine: it came up on the HWBC survey but it will be part of the emergency response process.

Water: We have a draft of a water document to William Shelba (IT), which is an easy read for households so that they know that water is shared. It includes information on wells, rainwater, septic, grey water. Joan and Howard attended OCP discussion. Steve emphasized that water imports are a real issue that we need to be tracking.

6) Climate Charter — The charter is paused (since 3 weeks ago) because we received feedback from Erin that made us think twice. We will make a presentation to the Chamber board.

7) SG Logo — The poll will go out again.

8) GILSS — GILSS is continuing to look at properties. Dyan: Village Vision talked about the need for public gathering space, and wondered if GILSS could create that sort of space. Greg asked about bequests of land.

9) Fix-It Fair — Fay reported that the Fix-It Fair on April 13th was a great success: at least 30 items were fixed (or at least looked at). Next one is July some time (TBD).

10) Earth Day — April 22nd. School was involved, there was music and activities. There was also an invasives blitz organized by GALTT.

11) Biochar — The biochar kiln has been borrowed by 3 people so far. There will be another workshop in the fall. People can borrow the kiln if they have attended a workshop. A biochar burn needs a fire permit, and those won't be issued after April 30th.

12) OCP Review — Nancy reported on what's happening over the next few months: June 25th meeting of the Local Trust Committee (LTC): the staff will have a draft of the revised OCP. In the summer there will be more community engagement opportunities regarding the revisions. Tobi is hearing of some polarization between people whose focus is on more housing, versus those whose focus is on sustaining the environment. Maybe Gabe Talks can organize a forum to talk it out. The revised OCP in a form for First Reading is planned for the November 20 LTC meeting. (The plan is to achieve the three readings and adoption in advance of the end of term, which is November 2026). There is an online webinar this Thursday on freshwater information for Gabriola.

13) FAC — On April 25th BCF ferries announced their new plan for community engagement. It does not include FACs. However, the Gabriola FAC will continue to exist, and FAC chairs from many other FACs around the coast have indicated that they plan to continue in some form. We will keep the FAC website going, will continue to listen to feedback from Gabriolans, and will pass it on to BCF.

Next meeting: **Sunday May 25th**, Facilitator: Steve, Notes: ?, Reconciliation: Dyan

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