

Minutes of the Zoom Meeting

Transition Sooke (TS)

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

1. Opening remarks:

Alan invited everyone to give an example of something good that happened in their lives in the last week.

The minutes of the meeting of June 3, 2020 were forgotten/not accepted as written.

2. Treasurer's Report: Moved by David Mallett, seconded by Diane Bernard, the Treasurer's Report was accepted as posted below).

3. Funding for Sooke Multi-Belief Initiative: Transition Sooke passed a request for \$200 to go to the Sooke Multi-Belief Initiative to cover the cost of advertising its five summer 2020 events.

4. Financial Procedures Policy: TS's new Financial Procedures Policy generated discussion re: "Decision Making Body." Members were concerned about voting to support projects needing financial support *between meetings*. Decision making by vote over email is acceptable to the group, but needs clarification as to how many members must support the initiative to have it accepted. The policy was returned to Alan for some modification.

Jill Marchand suggested that TS show the "tracked changes" to the draft policy so members can better understand the changes.

5. Transition Sooke World Oceans' Day "Sooke Orca Pod" event: Deb and Lily reported that the event was a great success. As a pop-up event, she said that about 80% of the drivers seeing the event, honked or waved to show their solidarity with the theme of the event.

6. COVID-19 Times and Lessons Learned: Jo proposed that TS members be invited to a picnic in John Phillip's Memorial Park (same location as for the Saturday Morning Market) on Sunday, July 19, 2020 at noon. Everyone would be asked to bring their own chairs or blankets and lunches and to respect "social distancing" and could talk about how COVID has affected them and how they propose to continue to deal with it into the future. The group agreed that all members should be invited and that participants could be split into smaller groups if too many turned up.

7. Climate Emergency Reports from Action Teams:
No teams had anything to report.

8. District of Sooke "Climate Action Committee" (a.k.a. CAC):

a) (reversed order) Susan Clarke talked about the huge irony in the District of Sooke supporting - unquestioningly the "ridiculous" **current rate of population growth** in Sooke. Council seems to think that uncontrolled growth is a "given" when many experts say that "uncontrolled growth" will be responsible for making life less sustainable in Sooke. In fact, limits to growth must exist if our community is to survive. There was some preliminary discussion on limits to growth.

b) Diane Bernard noted that CAC presented its report to District of Sooke Council at the Sooke Council meeting on June 22, 2020. A letter of support from TS was read at the meeting. Council passed the report

unanimously. Diane mentioned that a lot of details in CAC's original report were left out of the final report. A number of members also noted that there is a lot of detail in the work of TS's Climate Action Teams that could have been included.

9. Report on Sooke Council Meetings

a) June 22 – regular council meeting – Susan B reported that most of the meeting was basically “housekeeping” issues (a variance denied, daycare deferred, service agreement with the Sooke Chamber of Commerce, road paving, a by law repealed, etc.). Susan noticed that all decisions seemed to be unanimous

b) Jo Phillips' & Hester Vair's report on the Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting on June 23, 2020: Before launching into a summary of what happened at the COW, Hester Vair and Jo Phillips invited all members of Transition Sooke to join them in “bird-dogging” Sooke Council meetings in the future. They explained that they need a larger group of volunteers to do this important work in order to reduce the number of times that each person has to attend Council meetings to one turn every other month. So far, they have 6 volunteers (Alan Dolan, Susan Belford, Paula Johanson, Jack Gegenberg and Hester Vair, JoPhillips) who work in pairs. Please respond to Hester if you are interested in helping with this venture: <hvair@telus.net>

During the June 23 COW meeting, Council approved the **Transportation Master Plan and the Parks and Trails Master Plan**

Transportation: DoS Council proposes to discourage the use of cars in Sooke. Yet, in planning to improve Grant Road, the first proposal says that the road surface is to be re-paved for cars and NOT that the shoulders are to be paved to allow for safer bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

Hester Vair was shocked to read that Waddam's Way was considered the best place to walk in Sooke. The sidewalks do provide a safe walkway to the side of the road BUT the cars are being driven far too fast and the landscape is sterile (no trees or plantings).

Susan Belford felt that most of the transportation initiatives could be done in 1-2 years, while the Official Community Plan aims to plan for the next ten years.

Oliver pointed out that the Transportation Plan was focused on “active” transportation - cycling, walking - not on vehicles. The community of Sooke has many elderly citizens who cannot cycle up the hills around Sooke.

Electric vehicle owners will need more public chargers to charge their vehicles yet DoS has temporarily cancelled the two chargers to be placed across from The Stick in the Mud on Eustace Avenue!

The Master Plans seem to be dealing with everything using a “business-as-usual” approach. No new ideas or solutions.

Hester was surprised that Council seemed rushed/“hastled” but definitely congenial.

Parks and Trails: Dog Parks were of great interest. Using parks for activities other than

human and pet recreation was not considered (e.g., Using parks as protection of habitat for various species or for safe wild animal corridors is not mentioned.) And using parks to increase “neighbourhood cohesion” was also not mentioned.

DOG PARKS were a hot topic! . . . just NOT very Innovative!

Staff did suggest that Council make a list of expectations for developers before allowing them to build.

Hester invited all Transition Sooke members to look at the two plans on line at <sooke.ca> and to be part of a Virtual Open House on these reports tomorrow evening (July 9) between 5 and 7 pm.

10. South Island Climate Action Network:

- a) Principles for a Just Recovery: Hundreds of organizations across the country have endorsed the 6 principles of a Just Recovery from COVID-19. Deferred to online decision to endorse.
- b) Climate Caucus Transportation Working Group open letter. Deferred to online decision to endorse.

11. Zero Waste Sooke: No report.

12. Wild Wise Sooke: No report.

13. Announcements: Transition Sooke’s next meeting is August 5, 2020.

- a) Submissions due July 17 to DoS re: applications to become a member of the OCP Advisory Committee (They are seeking **7 OCP members.**)
- b) Submissions due July 17 for **one** place on the Climate Change Committee (CAC)
- c) Recovery (from COVID) Ideas to be sent to the Government of BC by July 21

June 2020 email decisions

- 1. Endorse Climate Action Committee Work Plan — Yes - 12; No - 0
- 2. Support \$200 donation to Sooke Multi-Believe Initiative Community Unity Series — Yes - 11; No - 1

**TRANSITION SOOKE
TREASURER'S REPORT**
Wednesday, July 8th, 2020

Current Account Balances:

Accounts

Account Name	Balance
Coast Community Chequing (100)	\$5,159.65
Wild Wise Sooke (101)	\$0.51
Zero Waste Sooke (102)	\$1,197.54
Special Events (103)	\$0.00

Income: NO INCOME IN JUNE other then \$0.10 interest

Expenses: The amount of \$200.00 has been approved to assist with expenses (advertising) for the Sooke Multi-Belief Initiative Summer Community Unity Series. A cheque in the amount of \$200.00 has been made out to Jeff Bateman as per the following email. It has not cleared so is not reflected in the checking account balance shown above.

On Jul 8, 2020, at 12:14 PM, Jeff Bateman <jbateman@shaw.ca> wrote:
Hi David,

I've paid for the Sooke Multi-Belief ad in the July 15 News Mirror with my VISA card.

Please send a cheque for \$200 addressed to me at ...

7083 Briarwood Place
Sooke BC
V9Z 0T2

thanks,
Jeff

<[SMBI - Building Resilience in Times of Stress press release.docx](#)>

<[SMBI Speaker Series - final.docx](#)>