

Transition Sooke General Meeting Minutes Wednesday August 5, 2020, 7-9 pm

Via ZOOM

Members Present:

Susan Belford (chair)	Susan Clarke	Hester Vail
Jack Gegenberg	David Mallett	Sam Webb
Alan Dolan	Cheryl Travis (part)	Oliver Hockenhull
Jo Phillips	Jill and Paul Marchand	Lynn and Chris Moss
		Lily Mah-Sen (minutes)

1. Opening

- a) Susan B opened the meeting. Alan gave the acknowledgement that our meeting is being held on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish, in particular the T'Sou-ke, Pacheedaht and Scia'new First Nations and we thank them for their continued stewardship of the land.
- b) Participant introductions.
- c) Agenda Review. We agreed to the agenda as circulated.
- d) Approval of Minutes of previous meetings:

Minutes June 3, 2020:

MS: Alan/Jack: "to approve the minutes of June 3, 2020 as circulated." Motion Carried.

Minutes of July 8, 2020:

M/S: Susan C/Alan: "to approve the minutes of July 8, 2020 as circulated." Motion Carried.

2. **Treasurer's Report.** David gave the treasurer's report. Overall, little has changed since the previous report.

M/S David/Oliver: "to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented". Motion Carried.

3. **Backyard Food Program Report.** We received an email from Stephen Hindrichs, the coordinator of the Backyard Food Program in Sooke, to report that this successful project has closed for this year. As they were able to secure donations and additional grants from other sources, they did not spend all the funds that Transition Sooke had allocated to the project (\$1,000). Stephen requested that the unspent funds be held in trust by Food CHI until next spring, when the program will start again. We agreed to the request, provided a financial report be presented by spring 2021.

ACTION: David will contact Stephen to inform him of our decision and to request a report along with a financial statement once the project is completed next year.

ACTION FOLLOW-UP: Anita Wasiuta forwarded a complete financial report on August 6th. It was sent out to Active Members in a separate email.

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4. Policy Stuff

- a) **Amendments to Decision-making Policy** Alan proposed 3 amendments to make Transition Sooke's Decision-making policy consistent with our financial procedures policy. The amendments are:
- i) The quorum for decision-making is presently 3 members. This will be changed when the TS By-Laws are updated.
 - ii) A Board Member will be responsible for taking the lead to send requests for decision-making to all Active Members.
 - iii) Decisions made by email will be recorded in the minutes of the next general meeting

M/S Paul/Jack: "to approve the Decision-Making Policy for Transition Sooke as amended."
Motion Carried.

- b) **The Financial Procedures Policy.** During our previous meeting, a few questions had been raised about the draft financial procedures policy. Alan outlined the revisions that he made which addresses these questions.

M/S Alan/Lynn: "that the Financial Procedures Policy, as revised, be approved."
Motion Carried.

ACTION: Both Decision-making and Financial Procedures policies will be posted to the TS website.

ACTION: Alan to find a previous motion on decision making by the board for financial matters and bring it to the next meeting.

5. Recent Initiatives

- a) **Response to the Transportation Master Plan.** Susan B outlined the response that she put together and sent to the Sooke Council on behalf of Transition Sooke. She thanked all the members who sent her suggestions and ideas to be included in the response.

Please Note: Transition Sooke members endorsed this response by email vote. See Item #11. below.

- b) **Comments and review of the Parks and Trails Master Plan.** Jo pulled together Transition Sooke's response to this plan.

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Please Note: Transition Sooke members endorsed this response by email vote. See Item #11. Below.

- c) **DOS Land Acquisition.** As a sidebar to her report, Jo shared information about an individual landowner/ developer who encountered difficulties with donating land containing a Garry Oak tree to the District of Sooke. The offer was refused due to the cost of ongoing maintenance of the site.

ACTION 1: Jo will contact the landowner/developer for more information as well as contact the District of Sooke to ascertain their policy on donated land.

ACTION 2: Oliver will talk to Jessica (volunteer with Wild Wise) about how they dealt with a similar situation in Metchosin. Oliver will also contact Habitat Acquisition Trust to find out whether they could offer advice as needed.

ACTION 1 Follow-up: Jo spoke to the developer, and the part of the property previously offered to Sooke has been included in one of the parcels being sold. Further action may be needed, such as follow up with DOS councillors.

6. **Report on Sooke Council Meetings by the Council “Watchdog” Group.** Hester spoke about the work of the group and emphasized that the group needs more people to ensure long-term sustainability of this group. Anyone interested? Please contact Hester.

Jack summarized the issues that were discussed by the Sooke Council at their July 27 Council Meeting and shared his impressions on how the Council functioned as a group.

Hester summarized the issues raised concerning planning for the Official Community Plan during the July 28 Committee of the Whole. She noted Council responses illustrate a tension between the aspirational and practical, with no clear sense of which aspirations are supported unconditionally as well as a tendency to see growth as inevitable while not understanding that growth may undermine some of the cherished aspirations.

Susan B. summarized BC Transit’s Local Area Transit Plan which had been presented to the Sooke Council on July 28. The recommendations in the Transit Plan will increase the availability of public transit in the Sooke region. However, financial problems experienced by BC Transit (due to COVID-19), has placed all these recommendations on hold indefinitely.

All written reports were sent out to the Active Members before this meeting.

ACTION: Alan will set up a spot on our website where these reports can reside.

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Reading and Reviewing Reports being dealt with by Sooke Council. One area of work that cannot be covered by the current members of the Watchdog Group is the need to read and review reports that are being presented to the Sooke Council. The reviewer could identify key areas of concern, send the info to the Active Members, and make suggestions on how members can respond. Unfortunately, no-one at this meeting was able to volunteer to do this task. One suggestion is that the Watchdog Group could send reports that merit our attention to the Active Members, with the ask for a volunteer to take on the task for reviewing the report. Another idea is to ask Christina Schlattner to keep a watch on the reports being tabled to see which ones are relevant to Transition Sooke's work and to alert the membership.

ACTION: Hester and Susan C to follow up.

7. Transition Sooke and the Sooke's 10-year Official Community Plan (OCP). Susan C. introduced this topic. The OCP represents Sooke's vision for the future and provides a framework to guide growth and decisions about the use and management of land and resources in the District of Sooke. The District of Sooke has hired a design firm (DIALOG) to organize public consultations and to produce the new 10-year OCP for Sooke by late 2021. Susan pointed out that Sooke's 10-year OCP could clash with Sooke's commitment to reach net zero by 2030. The two processes are not in sync: the OCP is working within the framework of how to manage growth in Sooke while the Climate Emergency declaration requires us to drastically reduce carbon emissions, especially in the area of transportation and buildings. Moreover, the District of Sooke is part of a Regional Growth Strategy. All the OCPs being developed by the municipalities in our region must fit into this overall growth strategy. Susan suggested setting up a small group of 6-8 people who would work on this issue. Work could involve the following: research and investigate who has jurisdiction on Sooke's OCP; strategize on how to change the conversation from developer-centric to community-centric; initiate alternate ways for consulting the community (e.g., surveys, forums, town halls); dialogue with the consultants to make them aware of our concerns; organize direct action, etc. Alan, Oliver, Susan B. and Lily indicated their interest in working with Susan. We need to recruit more people for this committee.

8. Recent Events: COVID Times/Lessons Learned Picnic. Hester and Jo reported on the picnic which was held on July 19. Positive evaluations were received from those who attended. We should plan another picnic at the end of Aug or early Sept.

ACTION: Jo, Susan C, and Hester will follow up. Notes from the July 19 event will be sent out to active members and a second picnic will be organized in August.

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9. Climate Emergency Reports from Action Teams. Nothing new to report.

10. District of Sooke Climate Action Committee: Nothing new to report

11. Other Business:

- a) **Government Funds Available.** Oliver reported that the Federal Government has just announced an *Infrastructure Reliance Fund* worth up to \$3.3 Billion. The fund can be used for such things as “building new parks, cycling and walking paths to help Canadians get access to nature to stay healthy, active and safe....[The funds could be used to help] communities reach longer goals of sustainable, economically healthy, low-carbon, and inclusive communities “(excerpted from their press release!) Non-profit organizations can access these funds as well as provincial governments.

ACTION: Oliver will investigate to see if Transition Sooke could/should pursue this.

- b) **Lifelong Learning Sessions** will resume this fall, by ZOOM. Many of the members of Transition Sooke are involved in facilitating sessions. For more information, contact Chris Moss.
- b) **Rainwater Harvesting:** The CRD is looking into making changes in regulations so that individuals will be permitted to collect rainwater for their homes.

12. Decisions Made by EMAIL Voting in month of July, 2020.

- a) **Decision, Email Vote, July 31, 2020:** “to endorse Transition Sooke’s response to the Transportation Master Plan.” Yes: 14 No: 0 Vote Carried.
- b) **Decision, Email Vote, July 31, 2020:** “to endorse Transition Sooke’s Review and Comments on the Parks and Trails Master Plan.” Yes: 13 No: 0 Vote Carried
- c) **Decision: Email Vote, July 11 2020:** “to endorse Climate Caucus Transportation Committee open letter and Principles for a Just Recovery” — Yes 9; No – 0

13. Adjournment. We adjourned shortly after 9 pm.

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**TRANSITION SOOKE
TREASURER'S REPORT**
Wednesday, August 5th, 2020

Current Account Balances:

Accounts

Account Name	Balance
Coast Community Chequing (100)	CA\$4,959.65
Wild Wise Sooke (101)	CA\$0.51
Zero Waste Sooke (102)	CA\$1,197.54
Special Events (103)	CA\$0.00

INCOME:

NO INCOME IN JULY

EXPENSES:

Invoice for \$5.26 from Black Press Media (Sooke News Mirror)
to pay additional charge for Building Resilience in Stress
Ad page A3 Thursday July 16th, 2020 Sooke News
Mirror edition.

Paid by cheque 000126..... Executive Decision

Actual Community Chequing (100) Balance: \$4954.39