

**Watchdog Report on Sooke Council Committee of the Whole Meeting
November 16, 2020
Hester Vair for Watchdog Committee, Transition Sooke.**

Maja Tait explains council is meeting virtually in November.

Councillors & Staff that I can see are present onscreen: Mayor Maja Tait, Jeff Bateman, Tony St-Pierre, Al Beddows. & Chief Administrative Officer Norm McInnis.

Evacuation Route Planning Project Report Not a critical agenda item for Transition Sooke. If anyone has any questions on this item, contact me - I have more detailed notes.

Presentation from a Sargent Mount (I did not catch the name). The presentation provided information about how to get people out during an emergency, and also how to inform people about emergency evacuation planning.

Points that came up were

- Our links with other organizations that would be part of an emergency response.
- The use of volunteers.
- Evacuation of farm animals.
- Sookians had questions about evacuation route signs & and about the decision not to use sirens.

Fire Services Protection Bylaw No. 292 Amendment Options - Outdoor Burning and Air Quality

This item is not an important item for Transition Sooke because we have no relevant actions at this time; it may be of concern at some time because burning contributes to climate change. Additionally, much of the burning that takes place is residents dealing with garden waste - rather than composting it. Tony St-Pierre suggested that perhaps something could be developed to pick up garden waste, particularly leaves, for composting - not picked up.

- Wood smoke settles in several neighbourhoods in Sooke: Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, and Mountain Heights.
- We have more liberal bylaws than many areas. Suggestion is to allow burning for Nov to April when the venting index is good. In the meeting there was a brief debate about burning on statutory holidays.
- This bylaw may be reviewed when Sooke has a solid waste management plan.
- People in Sooke have been responsive to public education & staff plan to do more.