

Notes - Transition Sooke General Meeting – Jan 6 2021

1. Welcome / introductions / President's remarks /agenda review
2. Minutes of last meeting (Dec 2, 2020) **Decision:** Moved Lynn, Seconded Chris. Approved.
3. Treasurer's Report – David M - Not available
4. Action Items
 - a) Letters written - Chris has letter in progress to Pocket News; Moki co-ordinated a letter from TS to Horgan urging him to cancel Site C
 - b) Letter to DOS in support of switching to Bear Proof Bins in Sooke – Not done -
Action: Lily to contact Sam to see if she wanted the letter from TS and whether there is still time to send it
 - c) Supporting local businesses working group was formed – Has not met. Participants include: Yvonne, Jo, Alan, Oliver, and Robin. Anna also wants to be involved.
Action: Alan to set up first meeting of this group
 - d) Theme: Consideration of how TS is presented to DOS Council and the community. Do we need to rethink our vision and values? Are we collaborating with our allies working for the health of Sooke? – A very complex action item indeed. An open discussion ensued with a number of different points:
 - We are a public interest group, not a special interest
 - Importance of having an “elevator speech” to describe who we are and what we do.
 - Supportive community organization
 - One of very few groups that holds Council's feet to the fire; Council really has no “opposition”
 - TS being political is seen as a bad thing; not really
 - Support and inform
 - Citizen's initiative
 - Broader than just climate change
 - TS is assisting in the transformation to a new society
 - Liveability
 - Soft pedal our role (huh?)
 - Community and council should use us as a resource
 - Need to define our position
 - Prepare at a local level for climate emergency, peak oil, etc.
 - Dream bigger; like Green New Deal
 - Not neutral
 - New awareness and framing to old ideas
 - Economic justice
 - Indigenous reconciliation
 - We were responsible for getting some of our TS community on to Council
 - Conflict resolution: hard on issues; soft on people
 - Climate first is actually a broad-based lens
 - Just transition to a Green New Deal
 - Nobody left behind**Action: Lily, Jack and Alan prepare a one-pager on who we are and what we do.**
5. Report on Sooke Council meetings – Hester – Noted that there is a pattern in meetings that pits big developments against other visions of the future. There is talk about hi-density, affordable, liveable, walkable, shareable communities but when decisions get made, it seems that people don't care about these things that we care about, and in the end, Council does not make decisions that support these things. There is a tension between “old Sooke” and a “new Sooke.” The new Sooke gets talked about in the front-ends of documents like Master Plans and OCPs, but very few of the elements of a new Sooke ever

materialize. Or if they do, they are one-offs, window dressing, virtue signals and then business continues on as usual.

6. OCP and Climate Action Team – Susan B – Plans are to develop “on-the-street,” short videos of ordinary Sooke residents answering questions about their communities, growth and other issues. The videos could be deployed in other ways (social media) but they will also form the basis of a February virtual Town Hall, where they will be used to stimulate discussions.
7. TS Society Matters - Alan
 - a) TS’s Society Bylaws need to be revised. They need to address what is in the Act and reflect the way that TS actually operates. They should draw on the three policies already developed — financial, membership, and decision making.
Action: Hester and Jill will take on the bylaw revision
 - b) Membership update
Action: As per our membership policy, Alan will send letters to all active members to determine whether they wish to remain as active members. A few repeat emails will probably be required and then a new Active Member List will be created, which forms the basis for the email list serv.
8. Communications – Alan
 - a) Alan presented a summary of the Newsletter (attached) The main point was to develop some guidelines for what appears in the newsletter and what does not. There was general agreement in the room for Alan’s presentation.
 - b) TS Facebook page: Discussion again on what should be on FB and what should not and whether some sort of guidelines need to be developed. Trying to find a balance between specifically TS information and broader posts that are related to TS’s goals and values.
Action: Alan, Yvonne, Paula and Susan B will try to develop some guidelines for FB posting that allow a balance between local, Transition Sooke posts and ones about regional, national and global climate and environment issues. The object is to increase its profile.
9. Climate Emergency Reports from other Action Teams - Green Energy - Lily
The Green Energy Team facilitated a four-session series on Green Energy for this fall’s Lifelong Learning program. Part 1, which included a Green Energy vision for Sooke as well as a discussion on reducing barriers and incentivizing people and communities to change, was well received. Mayor Maya Tait heard about this session, and asked for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation and notes. We hope that this will spark a continued dialogue with DOS.
10. Update on membership on DOS committees
 - a) Climate Action - Michael Tacon, Anna Russell, Cassandra Schostek, Elizabeth Lange, Jessica Prieto, Shandell Houlden, E.B. Klassen, Steve Unger, Beatrice Gentili-Hittos
 - b) Land Use and development – not enough people applied, so they are redoing the process

Next meeting – February 3, 2021