

Transition Sooke – Council Watchdog Summaries

General Council/COW Combination 22 March, 2021, 7 pm – Notes by Alan Dolan

Actual minutes provided by DOS:

<https://sooke.civicweb.net/filepro/document/54982/Regular%20Council%20-%2022%20Mar%202021%20Minutes.pdf?widget=true>

Hearing: Business Licence Bylaw No. 778, 2021 – One of the issues, in part raised by Ellen Lewers, is that if farm stands sell unprocessed foods — vegetables, fruit, etc.— they do not require a licence, but if they sell processed food — jam, processed meat, etc. — they do require a licence. This unfairly penalizes value-added products.

Staff are going to go back to the drawing board.

Delegation: Wildwise – Came to present three initiatives:

1. Purple martin nest boxes (species at risk)
2. Bat houses (in co-operation with Sooke Pathfinders)
3. Create Seal Haulouts near Ed McGregor Park (seals need somewhere to leave their young while they go out and forage for food)

Change to Committee of the Whole (COW)

Sooke Region Communities Health Network - Presented the Youth Program Feasibility and Sustainability Study (Sooke contributed \$5,000) that identified some service and facility shortages in Sooke including:

- Mental health support for youth (for all ages actually)
- Space to gather
- Connections to other generations; need role models, mentors – possibility of co-ordinating with Seniors' Centre

Silver Spray – fire protection

Green lens/climate first definition – CAO provided a presentation on Low Carbon Resilience (LCR) developed at SFU and proposed that Sooke adopt the LCR as its definition of green lens/climate first.

Some discussion and then public member Susan Belford reported that while she appreciated the spirit of the initiative, she had concerns as to whether the approach would truly put climate first. (NOTE: THE MINUTES COMPLETELY MISSED THE THRUST OF BELFORD'S COMMENTS AND ONLY REPORTED THAT SHE SUPPORTED THE LCR INITIATIVE)

Provided the following resolution to be voted on by general Council: THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends Council formally adopt Low Carbon Resilience, as defined by the Integrated Climate Action for BC Communities Initiative, as the District of Sooke's definition of green lens/climate first. Passed

Food truck service in parks – Staff report including information on a \$250 monthly fee for these trucks. Considerable discussion about locations and whether fee was reasonable or not versus the taxes that “bricks and mortar” restaurants pay.

Provided the following resolution to be voted on by general Council: THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends Council endorse the Food Truck Service in Parks program.

Back to the General Council meeting

Approved LCR and food truck fee motions from COW

Report: Adding fill to ALR land to level it. Request forwarded to Agricultural Land Commission (provincial)

Correspondence: Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and Helping Cities Lead Campaign sent to future COW meeting