

The July 19<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting of Council was concerned with five items, mostly to do with the work of the Climate Action Committee (CAC):

- The Climate Action Committee's Climate Action Plan Framework and Deliverables
- The Climate Action Committee's Education and Engagement Working Group Update
- The Climate Action Committee's 7% solution for Carbon Emissions reduction
- District of Sooke Strategic Priorities
- Proposed Dog Park in Ponds Park Corridor

The Climate Action Committee (CAC) took up most of the meeting;

### **Climate Action Plan Framework and Deliverables**

A CAC presentation covered the first two bullets above. Council was introduced to three terms identifying possible courses of action- BAU (Business as Usual), GU or Global Unravelling, and GT- Global Turning—a successful transition away from fossil fuels and carbon pollution.

A detailed framework outline was presented; this framework, focussing on both mitigation and adaption, will be completed for high priority areas only (buildings and transportation) by years' end. Other priorities for emissions reduction--- Food/Agriculture, Waste Management, Forest Carbon Sinks and Community Energy Generation—cannot be dealt with this year, and so will be referred to staff to complete with assistance and ongoing support (unless the life of the CAC is extended). From this plan the District will gain: a partially completed plan with targets and measurement capability; identified priorities and recommendations for immediate action; a working format into which staff are already inputting data.

In terms of the Education and Engagement Working Group Update, it was reported that following public engagement through street interviews, the committee is in process of designing the change stories that will help citizens move forward.

Council received this presentation with enthusiastic thanks.

### **The Climate Action Committee's 7% solution for Carbon Emissions reduction**

Using the metaphor of the stuck Evergreen freighter to describe the difficult problem of emissions reduction, Anna Russel took Council through the details of the CAC's 7% solution for emissions reduction, focussing on the two largest sources of emissions: buildings (heating fuel) and transportation. Mitigation plans for these two areas included retrofits for existing buildings, and mode shift away from ICE vehicles to EVs and bikes. Targets for both are included in the plan; it was stressed that this plan has been designed to be achievable—with about 200 transportation mode shifts and 200 retrofits per year. A major caveat was articulated however: the plan addressed only existing emissions; it does not address emissions from any new development.

This report sparked substantial discussion about money, the current BC Transit local area plan (which will yield less than one year's worth of emissions savings), implementation and transit. Following some resistance from Coun. Beddows, (allayed by clarification of financial measures by Sooke's CAO), council unanimously approved the climate change mitigation strategy *The 7% Solution* and will proceed with its implementation by directing staff (with CAC support and review) to: create an implementation work

plan; prepare budget recommendations for incorporation in the District's next five-year financial plan; and investigate funding sources and partnerships required to implement the strategy fully.

### **District of Sooke Strategic Priorities**

Strategic long-range planning at the District is accomplished by developing a vision, mission, core values and guiding principles in the Council Strategic Plan. The current 2019-2022 Plan includes three (3) goals that direct work over the current 4-year Council term. These three goals are included in a one-page dashboard referred to as the Strategic Priorities Chart. The Chart is reported on quarterly to Council and is repopulated semi-annually.

CAO Norm McGinnis presented a PowerPoint showing the July-Dec chart for the remainder of the year. The plan follows on from the previous one and there were no surprises. It was received and approved by Council.

### **Proposed Dog Park in Ponds Park Corridor**

Plan and budget options. A lack of dog off leash areas was earlier identified in Sooke. The Parks and Trails Plan embraces dogs. 62% of survey respondents own dogs; there are 2500 dogs in Sooke.

Located at 2276 Church Road (behind Acreman Place at Church Road), Ponds Park Corridor has been chosen as a suitable dog park location. Public engagement was solicited from nearby residents and widespread support including suggestions for features needed for the park: Water fountain with pet faucet; waste receptacles and bag dispensers; benches and gazebo; natural agility equipment and sections to accommodate different dogs (hi-low energy). People also wanted to see a larger area.

Budget options- bare bones: \$36,500 (current budget) would allow a water connection without fountain, Surfacing and trail connections, trailhead amenities (garbage, bags and signage) and fencing (smaller area than preferred.)

To accommodate all the desired amenities, it will cost an additional \$45,000 for a total of \$81,500. Staff requests that Council used the contingency budget to make up this shortfall. Separation of dog types not covered; park will be designed to accommodate this in future if desired.

A very long discussion followed, and eventually the resolution was approved to be forwarded to Council.