

Transition Sooke General Meeting NOTES– Aug 4, 2021

Facilitator: Susan Belford Note-taker: Alan Dolan

1. Opening
 - a. Welcome, acknowledgement, check-in
 - b. Note-taker - Alan
 - c. Agenda review
 - d. Approve revised minutes of last meeting (July7) – two changes: title changed to “Monthly Meeting” and Mary Ellen changed to Mary Alice. **Passed.**
2. Treasurer’s Report – Lily (see below) Potential revenue coming from bicycle lock-up at the Park and Ride. Stephen Hindrichs coordinating. Moved-Lily; Seconded-Susan C. **Passed.**
3. Action Items
 - a. “Climate solutions tour” committee (Susan C, Chris M, Lynn M, Alan D.) is organizing the tour and will let members know what is planned shortly.
 - b. A small team (Susan B, Lily, Gord, maybe Sue Lidster and Carol Mallet) explored potential projects with EMCS’ Patrick Gale (see 4 below)
 - c. Heather, Chris, and Lynn have written about water and wells and the Regional Growth Strategy. See d. below
 - d. There is now a Water Group page on the website. Alan to publish Water Group pieces described above – in progress
 - e. 7% letter to council – Roland has taken the pen and it is being reviewed by the OCP and Climate Action Team. The letter has three main messages: 1. Thanks for passing this; you did the right thing; 2. Sooke will have to re-assign its priorities big time; 3. Transition Sooke can help. Letter will come to Active Members for an email decision.

Motion: Once approved, Alan will send to individual council members, mayor, key staff and CAC. Letter will also be sent to the council@sooke.ca so it goes into the public record for the next council meeting. Moved by Heather; seconded by Bernie. **Passed**

4. Funding request and project proposal for ECO-Academy – Lily spoke to the proposal

Motion: That Transition Sooke support the EMCS EcoAcademy for the 2021-22 school year with a grant of \$1,000, to provide two \$415 bursaries for students and additional funding for materials up to \$170 with receipts submitted. Moved-Alan; Seconded-Lily. **Passed**

5. Bus shelter climate change poster contest – Gord Wallace has organized this initiative Alan and Gord will develop a motion for approval to be sent by email to active members

Motion (unanimously passed by email decision)

That Transition Sooke sponsor a Climate Change Poster Competition at EMCS High School and donate \$200 for prizes. EMCS will coordinate the competition in September 2021. Transition Sooke would be recognized for its donation.

William G Wallace, a member of Transition Sooke, will make a donation of \$200 to Transition Sooke to cover this expense.

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6. Update on WE-CAN – Lily – summary of her report:

WE-CAN has incorporated as a non-profit society. 150 BC climate action groups are officially joined WE-CAN. Board of Directors have been elected. Lily is Treasurer. WE-CAN Public launch will be held on Sept. 20th. Invitations will be sent out.

Upcoming Activities

i) BC 2022 Budget Submission. The BC Govt has asked the general public to make submissions on what should be included in the budget. WE-CAN is encouraging all climate action groups to ask for increased funds to respond to climate emergency. WE-CAN will be offering an on-line workshop in August on how to make a budget submission. Submission deadline is Sept.30. Dates and info TBA.

ii) Transportation Forum. WE-CAN will be holding an on-line forum on practical solutions for lowering GHGs emitted by private and public transportation. The goal is to come up with concrete suggestions on how to get these solutions put into practice in our communities. Dates and info TBA.

iii) Formation of the Municipal and Rural Engagement Team. The purpose of this group is to help climate champions be elected to city, municipal, and district councils and school boards in the upcoming municipal elections (Oct. 22, 2022). Activities will include finding good candidates to run; get them elected by providing support, mentorship, training, resources; encouraging and supporting WE-CAN groups to get involved in the election process in their communities; enhancing communications and networking amongst candidates and groups involved in political engagement; and help groups engage with their governments on a continuous basis.

I greatly encourage Transition Sooke members to get involved in WE-CAN activities.

7. Report on Sooke Council meetings – Hester. Hester reported on the July 12 meeting of Council; Susan B reported on the July 19 Committee of the Whole and Yvonne reported on the July 26 regular council meeting. (all notes posted here: <https://transitionsooke.org/council-meeting-watchdog/>)

8. Team Reports:

- a. Facilitation Team – The facilitation team of Susan B and Alan has been joined by Lily. Anyone else who wants to facilitate, please let us know. Alan and Susan B could do a Facilitation Workshop if the need arises
- b. OCP and Climate Action Team – 7% letter was an initiative of this group; working on planning of Town Hall 2
- c. Local Economy Team - is preparing a Transition Sooke response to the survey issued by the Community Economic Development Officer at the District.
- d. Pesticide Education Group – Yvonne gave an update. Particularly with alleged use of glyphosate at the schools, we need to get organized and present our petition and the non-essential use of pesticides bylaw to Council in the fall.
- e. Water Group – Lynn. The Rainwater Harvesting group has morphed into a group with a broader mandate that is called the Water Group and includes water conservation, rainwater harvesting and other water issues.

9. District of Sooke Committees

- a. Climate Action -

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- b. OCP Advisory – no report
 - c. Land Use and Development – nothing new; taking break over summer
 - d. Economic Development –
10. Website – Alan did a short “tour” of the site and encouraged action teams to create a page for their groups.
- 11. MOTION (unanimously passed by email decision)**
Roland Alcock, with the assistance of a number of members of the OCP and Climate Action Team, prepared the attached letter to send to Mayor and Council. As this letter is coming from our organization, we solicited the support of Active Members via email. 19 active members unanimously supported the letter. **Passed.**
- 12. MOTION (unanimously passed by email decision)** – The Local Economy Group prepared a submission to the District of Sooke Community Economic Development Survey which was circulated to all active members (see: <https://transitionsooke.org/local-economy-working-group/>)

Next meeting – Sept.1, 2021

TRANSITION SOOKE

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wednesday Aug.4, 2021

Current Account Balances:

Accounts

Account Name	Balance
Coast Community Chequing (100)	\$3,933.78
SMBI (101)	\$0
Zero Waste Sooke (102)	\$1,197.54
Special Events (103)	0

INCOME in July: \$0

EXPENSES from July 7 (date of previous meeting) to August 4:

Coast Community Account #100

August 1 monthly automatic transfer to Britt Santowski

For Sooke Pocket News

\$ 20.00

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August 17, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: Climate Change Mitigation Strategy, the 7% Solution

Transition Sooke strongly supports Council's unanimous passing of the Climate Change Mitigation strategy, the "7% Solution" at its July 26 meeting. We also applaud the excellent work of the Climate Action Committee (CAC), which developed the strategy by analyzing a great deal of data from many sources.

Now staff, with the able assistance of CAC, are charged with implementation of the strategy: to create an implementation 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.

We believe citizens of Sooke have a moral and legal duty to play our part in reducing GHG emissions and decarbonizing the economy in the timescales demanded by climate science and explained and communicated by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

We understand and expect the implementation of the strategy will require human and fiscal resources. In some cases, there must be a diversion and re-assignment of resources and a postponement of what was formerly regarded as normal operations.

But in an emergency there is no alternative. The costs to economies, livelihoods, cultures, human health and the natural environment of doing nothing, or proceeding too slowly, are incalculable and unconscionable. We look to Sooke Council to provide the enlightened and scientifically aware leadership to set the correct priorities, marshal the necessary resources, and engage the whole community in the effort.

Transition Sooke is ready and willing to assist in any way it can. We have well-qualified people amongst our active members — data analyzers, policy analysts, educators, communications and engagement specialists, and former elected officials.

Council must make climate the number one consideration in everything it does, with a particular focus on the plans and actions proposed in the climate change mitigation strategy to reduce greenhouse gases by 7% every single year between now and 2030.

We urge Sooke Council to proceed and act now with the urgency that a declared climate emergency demands and that our children and grandchildren have every right to expect.

Transition Sooke (with unanimous support of its Active Members)