

Transition Sooke DRAFT Monthly Meeting Notes
3 November 2021 7 pm

Facilitator: Susan Belford, Notetaker: Allie

- 1 Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Check In
- 2 Agenda review
- 3 Notes for October 6 meeting
 - 3.1 Motion: Approve notes of last meeting (6 October 2021). Moved by Alan; seconded by Bernie. Passed.**
 - 3.2 Board/steering committee will give policy direction on whether or not meeting notes will continue to be posted on the website (re: Alan's email of 3 Nov).
- 4 Treasurer's Report (see below)
Motion: Receive and accept Treasurer's Report. Moved by Lily; seconded by Lynn. Passed.
- 5 Action Items
 - 5.1 EMCS Climate Posters – Gord will be a judge at the school for this.
 - 5.1.1 News release – holding out on this until it's decided where the posters will be displayed in the community. **Carryover action item for Alan.**
 - 5.1.2 Poster Display at City Hall? The school hopes to talk with Council about having the posters displayed at City Hall.
- 6 Watch Dog Report
 - 6.1 Oct 25 Council Meeting (Jack already submitted a written report). Discussion around council committee term expirations in December. Concerns were voiced about volunteer burnout, about proposals bypassing staff and going directly to council (no chance to cost them and look at staffing implications), and that if committees keep going until closer to next fall's election, there may be the image of unfinished business at that time. It was decided that the committees would be extended for 6 months and then reconsidered, and that vacant positions would be filled in the meantime.
 - 6.2 Oct 12 Council Meeting, Susan Belford: Unveiling of T'Sou-ke flag flying in front of the Municipal Hall. Correspondance: a letter from 'Sooke on Fire' was not accepted because the writers were 'anonymous'. \$30,000 for design work for event structure at JPMP: council's Sooke Program of the Arts Committee wanted money to make a design, not with a location in mind, and didn't know about the Lions proposal at the time. Resolution not passed; in abeyance until there is further public engagement on JPMP. \$110,000 budget for 7% solution: it was made clear that there is other work that is yet to be costed and coming, but this is the first piece that there is costing for. No one on council said anything against the budget. One councillor said they weren't sure about the \$20,000 for public engagement because it wasn't specific.
 - 6.3 Budget Meeting, Susan Belford: Council had asked staff to create a budget with all of their asks. What was presented was for this year, but was part of 5-year budget plan. Went through by department, with discussion on what could be reduced or cut. Council doesn't want to increase taxes: if everything in the budget was implemented, it would increase taxes by 17.5%.

No decisions were made. Susan Belford, Alan Dolan, Bernie Klassen, Anna Russell, Beth Lange, and Diane Bernard all addressed Council on the Climate Action budget.

7 WE-CAN climate champions to run in municipal elections (Lily): We need climate champions to run in the Oct. 22, 2022 elections in Sooke and the CRD (municipal, district, and school board). WE-CAN's Rural and Municipal Engagement Team can help candidates with training, info, support and encouragement.

8 Team Reports:

8.1 OCP + Climate (Alan, SusanC):

8.1.1 There has been talk about collaboration between TS and CAC. It won't be a really formal relationship where we become volunteers on CAC; it's recognized that TS is different and separate, but there are a few areas TS volunteered help for: research, policy analysis, data analysis, and advice on drafts of things. Others in the broader TS community are welcome to help. <https://transitionsooke.org/official-community-plan-and-climate-action-team/>

8.1.2 Made an OCP submission from TS. A number of us also made personal submissions.

8.1.3 Letter on subsidized affordable housing and climate change was sent to council. Haven't heard anything back.

8.1.4 Lily: heard from Geri Construction, who wants to build a 66-unit condo development below Mariners Village on the waterfront. Lily wrote back and said she was interested in what they're doing, mentioned TS and asked for footprint info, what kind of GHG emissions it would entail, would there be EV charging stations, etc. The developers indicated that they are interested in having a conversation with TS. She forwarded us their email (3 Nov) and we can discuss later.

8.2 Local Economy group hasn't met in the past month.

8.3 Water Group (Lynn, Heather)

8.3.1 Update on well registration: people on residential wells won't be charged for water. Farms are assumed to use a swimming pool's worth in a year, so they will be charged \$80-90 per year. Stratas are still up in the air (as 'water-providing' systems). The highest charges will be against manufacturers. From Metchosin to Renfrew people are having well problems; many going dry, digging deeper and still going dry...

8.3.2 Groundwater licensing: re: aquifer 606 (the big one that underlies all the smaller ones), Lynn is working on a scheme to get the government to use citizens' private wells as observation wells by putting a monitor into at least one well per little aquifer, because an observation well would cost \$40,000 and they say they can't afford it. Our OCPs don't address water supply.

8.3.3 The TS water group has allied with the 606 Water Group (and other Metchosin and Langford community water groups).

9 District of Sooke Committees

9.1 Extensions until June 30

9.2 CAC (Bernie): the extension is the most important news. Some CAC members have resigned/withdrawn; quite a few are worn out and want to stop at the end of year. We should be looking at strategic choices for application to committees: it will be a short term, mostly over

by the end of April. Submission of budget ask to council is done. Report-writing still in progress, should be done within 4-5 months. Looking at launch of 7% solution for Earth Day 2022.

9.3 Land Use and Development: one meeting was cancelled, then there was a meeting on the OCP where no one ready to say anything, and then another at which the council chairperson didn't show so Susan B chaired it. A number of the committee members wouldn't say what they thought about the OCP. Concrete in the new library and sports box will release about 800 tonnes of CO2 equivalent; we have to be careful about development in many different areas. Concrete is the biggest one. Bernie reminded everybody about hempcrete. Development is a massive concern for Sooke GHG-wise, in trying to stick to our 50% reduction, and it doesn't seem like there's any way to stop it. There are legal ramifications of trying to undo things that have already been approved. At 15,000 people (last census 13,000), we stop getting a community grant of \$300,000 and start paying 90% of RCMP fees instead of 70%; Bernie noted that needing to raise taxes will happen just because of all these things that will change with new census info. If we focus on water as well as climate change, maybe we can stop development in some way. **Action item: Alan (for the OCP/Climate group) will draft a letter about a moratorium on approvals of new development, and then send it out for approval.**

9.4 Economic Development: The regularly scheduled meeting did not have a quorum and so was postponed to the next week. At that meeting they discussed the problem with parking at the District's marina/boat launch behind the Prestige Hotel (to be further discussed next month) and spent most of their time on possible changes required to the draft Sooke Community Economic Development strategy resulting from public comments to that draft. Areas of prime concern to the public requiring discussion by this committee as highlighted by Sue Welke, Community Development Officer were:

9.4.1 Whether it is in Sooke's best interest to apply to CECI (Canada Export Community Investments) which supports Canadian communities seeking to attract, retain and expand foreign direct investment. This program focuses mostly on the U.S., Brazil and China as well as other Asian and European countries. Several of the public commented on the fact that some of the targeted countries did not have the best track record on environmental protection and/or human rights. It was decided to leave it (applying to CECI) in but add something about focusing on local and regional businesses as well.

9.4.2 If, in the process of attracting primarily LCR (low carbon resilience) businesses to Sooke, the District's CED strategy should state that, for those businesses that did not have their LCR protocols in place yet, they should be able to "compensate" for their higher GHG emissions. It was decided since "offsets" are inherent in the LCR model to just leave the mention of compensating out altogether.

9.4.3 How much reference there was to climate change/strategy? That was left for another meeting because they wanted to see what the OCP came up with, and the CAC, before they made their own decision on whether they were going to emphasize that or not. There will eventually be a new ED officer.

9.5 OCP: everything has gone offline; we don't know if they've met.

10 Sooke Food CHI came out with an amazing report this year on food sustainability in the Sooke region. They got a grant and had people paid to put it together. We should get behind Sooke Food CHI. **Action item: Alan will talk to Steven Hindrichs.**

11 Adjourn.

Next meeting: December 1, Facilitator: Lily, Notetaker: Allie

Email Decisions

1. Please find attached Transition Sooke's submission to the District of Sooke in response to the latest draft of the OCP. The submission was prepared by members of the OCP and Climate Emergency Team. In order to submit it as a Transition Sooke document, we felt that Active Members needed to support the document. So please respond to this email with either: YES I support this document; NO I do not support the document.

Passed.

2. Last week I circulated an email request to the active members of Transition Sooke for permission for Transition Sooke to join with other climate action groups to sign an open letter to Premier Horgan in regards to the Climate Emergency. The letter calls on the BC government to recognize the urgency and alarm that people are feeling as the climate crisis is directly impacting our communities and our health (heat dome, wildfires, drought, etc.). It urges the BC government to develop and implement a transformative 10-point climate emergency plan.

Passed.

3. Recent research on affordable housing being constructed in Sooke shows that the buildings will not help in meeting our climate emergency goal and could be expensive and represent health threats for tenants. The OCP and Climate Team has prepared a letter to council and once again we would like to send it from our whole organization. Please indicate whether you support the attached letter.

Passed with one change from Christina Schlattner.

4. Transition Sooke will be filling out the Community Economic Development Strategic Plan survey as a "non-profit". Attached are the answers to the survey questions that the TS Local Economy working group has put together. Since it will be submitted in the name of TS, we are sending the survey questions' answers to the active members list for approval.

Passed.

5. TS to sign the resolution for the protection of our endangered ecosystems in BC.

Passed.

TRANSITION SOOKE TREASURER'S REPORT
Wed. Nov.3, 2021

Current Account Balances:

Account Name	Balance
Coast Community Chequing (100)	\$2,924.11
SMBI (101)	\$0
Zero Waste Sooke (102)	\$1,217.54
Special Events (103)	0

Details:

Coast Community Chequing (100)

Balance on Oct. 6 (date of last meeting)

\$2,944.11

Income : nil

Expenses from Oct. 6 to Nov. 3:

- Nov. 1 monthly automatic transfer to Britt Santowski
for Sooke Pocket News \$ 20.00

Total Expenses. **- \$20.00**

Balance in Coast Community Chequing (#100) **\$2,924.11**

No changes in Accounts 101, 102, or 103

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Balance of Grant to EMCS ECO Academy program costs. Up to \$170.00 with receipts.