

Transition Sooke Monthly Meeting Notes
1 December 2021 7 pm

Facilitator: Lily Mah-Sen, Notetaker: Allie

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledge, and Check-in
2. Agenda Review
3. Notes for Nov. 3, 2021 meeting
Motion: Approve notes of last meeting (3 November 2021). Moved by Jo; seconded by Susan C. Passed.
4. Treasurer's Report (see below)
 - 4.1 **Motion: Receive and accept Treasurer's Report. Moved by [there actually wasn't a formal motion and seconding, unless I missed this – I believe that instead we segued into the discussion around the Sooke Pocket News]**
 - 4.2 There was some discussion around whether TS as a society should continue in 2022 to donate \$20 monthly to Sooke Pocket News as we have been doing. The question came up of whether we should be donating to media, even if it's local independent media, as we don't want it to appear as if we're paying someone to publish us. Lily spoke to Britt regarding the possibility of a fee-for-service model, but this didn't seem feasible, so TS will continue to donate as we have been doing, which was also the decision carried by vote during the meeting.
5. Action Items from previous meetings
 - 5.1 EMCS Climate Posters (contest winners, press release, display) – on the website we have the winning posters and the news release; this has been picked up by Sooke Pocket News and Capital Daily so far. Thank you to Gord! The location of the display is still being discussed.
 - 5.2 Letter to DOS on a moratorium on approvals of new development (letter; presentation to Council) – Alan sent the document out to TS active members over email: 24 yes, 1 no, 1 unsure. Alan also made it into a presentation for the Mayor and Council to be given at the DOS December 13 meeting. He shared the presentation with us; all present appreciated and liked it and there were some suggestions around the possibility of finding a different word from 'moratorium', which might make people panic and stop listening – pause? hold? – and the possibility of emphasizing certain things and removing the part about what TS has done.
 - 5.3 Sooke Food CHI report on Food Sustainability in Sooke (Alan to talk to Steven Hindrichs re: TS support for this report) – this was SRCHN's report actually, not Food CHI's (Food CHI was originally a part of SRCHN). Although it's a good report, its working definition of 'food security' is completely different from the ones we usually see, and is framed more around the food-related challenges of poverty than of climate change. Alan did speak to Steven Hindrichs about Food CHI's current and recent projects: the backyard garden program was quite

successful in 2020 but only had a couple of participants this past summer. Food CHI also runs the apple festival in the fall and Seedy Saturday in February, has kept lists of local farms, and does fruit tree gleaning projects on and off. Alan wondered if some TS folks would want to start doing more in the area of food security? One action team was originally going to be Food security/Agriculture, but other than supporting the community gardens nothing else has happened in that area. Maybe reach out in the newsletter, or maybe help Food CHI out rather than starting our own initiative? Maybe a collaboration between SRCHN and Food CHI and TS? Could there be a food security summit, inviting everyone who has been involved locally and maybe regionally? Or have food security as a theme at the AGM in February?

6. Watch Dog Report: Yvonne attended the November 8 meeting. There was a business license amendment about food trucks (being mobile vs. permanent structures and the impact of disposal of grey dishwater and grease on the wastewater treatment plant). Plastic bags: local businesses are already implementing ban on plastic bags at checkout. Delegation from Sooke Chamber of Commerce: the person speaking said that Sooke businesses are feeling overtaxed. Someone came to talk about his problems with trying to find a place to operate his business. Council was supportive and said that they hoped that as new development comes in he will be able to find space, but he said he had talked to others and it was hard to get into a new development because they want big box stores and franchises. Mayor Tait acknowledged that this was a problem, but didn't suggest a solution. Change to alternative approval process: they will take forms online going forward. The subdivision of 5627 Woodlands Road received final approval. Discussion about fireworks problems and about setting a certain time for fireworks on days that they're going to be set off. Hester will email the other reports.

7. Team Reports:

7.1 OCP+Climate Team – Alan: poster contest and presentation on the moratorium already covered. Banning natural gas hookups (actually this is the Green Energy Group): there is now a motion from the CAC on doing this, which is going to the next council meeting, so holding off on this for now. Gord has been meeting with the Sooke Community Association about possible retrofitting of the community hall to make it more energy efficient and climate-friendly. Lily and both Susans are looking at regional growth statements. Regional Context Statement will be embedded into the OCP. Will suggest that they don't have in that first section the historical 3.2% being what we expect/prepare for; but rather stay more in line with the climate emergency and the targets we're trying to meet.

7.2 Local Economy Group – hasn't met.

7.3 Water Group – Heather has been reading all the fine print and laws, and Lynn has been sending out random emails to water people and getting great answers. In January there will be a presentation in Metchosin by Sylvia Kenny [I didn't catch her potential new last name]. Transition Salt Spring got us in touch with well-monitoring people and have been very helpful. **Action: the Water Group will**

write a thank-you note to Transition Salt Spring (on behalf of TS) for all their help with water issues.

8. Report from SMBI – Koshin: The SMBI web page at transitionsooke.org could use an update. There is a new logo, and updated text would also be good: additions of actions in 2021, links to docs like agendas and minutes, and an almost-ready rewritten Quest document. Last month SMBI discussed the future, including potential changes to name, logo, and affiliation with TS society. Decided to retain name and affiliation for the time being. Koshin will be SMBI representative at monthly TS meetings. SMBI will meet next on Dec 14 at 2 p.m. at Sooke Baptist Church to review the Quest document (operating principles, conduct etc.); there will be major revisions which will help objectives become clearer and more defined, and SMBI will stay aligned with TS in ways directed by their members and TS directors. Koshin can send text updates for the website to Claudia; **Lily will send him Claudia's email address.**

9. Letter from Wild Wise Sooke: WWS sent TS a very nice thank-you letter as they leave and become their own society.

10. District of Sooke Committees

10.1 CAC – Moki: not staying with the group after December. Will present resolution to Council on December 13 about growth moratorium and also banning natural gas hookups for new builds.

10.2 Land Use and Development Committee – Susan B not present.

10.3 OCP Committee – people are watchdogging that one.

10.4 Economic Development Committee – Local Economy Group has been at CED committee meetings once a month. Nov 26: final review of local Sooke ED strategy. ED officer Sue Welke has left. They have hired not exactly another economic development officer, but someone who will be part of staff and work with that committee. They're asking people if they want to stay on the committee for the next year or not, and will put out a call for more people if not everyone is staying. Two main priorities financially: developing land strategy and \$10,000 for promotional materials to attract businesses to Sooke. CAC was meant to be a temporary committee and will dissolve on 30 June, while the CDC one will keep going.

11. Any Other New Business: there was some discussion around what can be done at the municipal level and what has to be done at the provincial level. It was voiced that sometimes it seems like every time we find something to do that could be meaningful, it would need to be done at the provincial level, such as pesticides or building codes (though it was mentioned that Sooke decided on Step 3 when they could have decided on Step 5 or beyond). Should we be writing more letters to the provincial and federal governments? There seems to be an attitude at the provincial level that municipalities who don't 'behave' can and will have the money pulled out from underneath them, despite the authority they should have under the Community Charter.

12. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday Jan. 5, 2022. 7 pm. Facilitator: Alan Dolan

TRANSITION SOOKE TREASURER'S REPORT
Wed. Dec.1, 2021

Current Account Balances:

Account Name	Balance
Coast Community Chequing (100)	\$2,904.11
SMBI (101)	\$0
Zero Waste Sooke (102)	\$1,217.54
Special Events (103)	0

Details:

Coast Community Chequing (100)

Balance on Nov. 3 (date of last meeting)

\$2,924.11

Income : nil

Expenses from Nov. 4 to Nov. 1:

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

Total Expenses. **- \$20.00**

Balance in Coast Community Chequing (#100) **\$2,904.11**

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.