

Notes for Transition Sooke Board Meeting, June 15, 2021, 10-11:30 AM

Members Present:

Moki Tacon	Susan Belford
Bernie Klassen	Jo Phillips
Alan Dolan (facilitator)	Lily Mah-Sen (notes)

Guest: Hester Vair (By-laws discussion)

1. Welcome. Agenda approved. Land acknowledgement
2. **Updating Transition Sooke's Bylaws.** Hester shared the work that she has been doing in reviewing Transition Sooke's Bylaws. All registered not-for-profit groups in BC must comply with the Societies Act and must act according to their own constitution and bylaws. Groups can choose to either adopt the "Model Bylaws" that have been provided by the BC govt. or develop their own. Transition Sooke's current Bylaws have mostly followed the framework in the 1996 version of the "Model Bylaws". Hester noted that the way that Transition Sooke conducts our work (such as open meetings, and flexible procedures that empower members to make decisions) is very different from the more traditional rules and procedures that are outlined in our current set of Bylaws.

Hester noted 4 major areas of difference:

- i. The relationship between the Directors and Members
- ii. The way we conduct our meetings
- iii. The way we make decisions
- iv. The autonomy of our working groups

Hester would like to see a lively discussion amongst our members on how we do things in Transition Sooke, what works and what doesn't work, as well as figure out how best to describe our procedures in a new set of written Bylaws.

Action: Hester will complete her research document and share it with the Directors. The Directors will need to find a way to engage our members on this issue face-to-face. New Bylaws would need to be voted on at our next AGM (February 2022).

3. **Remaining with Coast Capital Credit Union for Transition Sooke's banking.** Lily presented the research she had done on Coast Capital in terms of whether they practice ethical investments. Capital Coast does not lend to oil and gas companies or large retail stores. They are a Certified B Corporation (committed to Net Zero by 2030) as well as an Imagine Canada Caring Company. We agreed that we should continue banking with Coast Capital. As we are not recommending that we change our banking to another institution, we agreed that this issue does not need to be taken to our membership for a vote.

4. **Relationship with Sooke Multi-Belief Initiative (SMBI):** While SMBI is a working group of Transition Sooke, its members do not regularly attend Transition Sooke meetings or report on its activities to Transition Sooke. They function as a separate society. Yet, their finances must go through Transition Sooke's books; and they come to Transition Sooke whenever they need funding support. SMBI's applications to outside funders (including applications for grants from the District of Sooke) are made in Transition Sooke's name; so the municipality's and public's perception is that these projects are directly organized by Transition Sooke.

Action: Moki, who is a member of SMBI, will talk to SMBI to discuss ways to build a better working relationship between Transition Sooke and SMBI.

5. **Monthly payment to Sooke Pocket News.** It was clarified that our \$20 payment to Sooke Pocket News can be seen as a subscription fee and that we will re-visit this subscription at the beginning of 2022.

6. **Protocol for speaking on behalf of Transition Sooke**

Most decisions (such as go-ahead for working group activities, requests to endorse petitions initiated by another organization, decision on TS joining a network or coalition, decisions to donate funds to another group, to allocate funds for purchases and services, to write a letter or press release to media on behalf of Transition Sooke) are made by our members during regular Transition Sooke Meetings. For time-sensitive items in which a decision needs to be made before the next scheduled membership meeting, the request is circulated by email. The regular turn-around time for a response is 48 hours.

In a situation where decisions need to be made in a shorter time period than 48 hours, the request will be sent by email to the Directors for approval. The request should indicate how quickly a response is needed. Once approved, the Directors will notify our members of their decision.

Protocol for speaking on behalf of Transition Sooke: press releases and identification of spokesperson to answer requests for media interviews will be sent by email to the Directors for approval. The request should indicate how quickly a response is needed. Directors could decide to take the request to the Active members either at the next monthly meeting or via email decision making.

7. **Adjournment.** Thank-you for a good meeting.