

**Notes, Transition Sooke Steering Committee Meeting (aka Board of Directors Meeting)
Wed. Sept. 22, 2021**

Members Present:

Alan Dolan (facilitator)
Susan Belford
Moki Tacon

Lily Mah-Sen (notes)
Jo Phillips
Bernie Klassen

Guest Presenter: Hester Vair

1. Welcome
2. Agenda Review
3. **Changing Transition Sooke's By-laws.** Hester gave a very thorough explanation for the changes she is recommending to our Bylaws. We are currently using the "Model Bylaws" that were suggested by BC Registry in 1996. Since then, the BC Societies Act was changed in 2015 and a new, shorter and clearer set of Model Bylaws is now in place.

Transition Sooke's way of doing things is very different from the traditional hierarchical business model outlined in the Model Bylaws. The Societies Act allows non-profit organizations to use alternative management models as long as these are codified in the group's By-Laws.

Hester looked at the ways that Transition Sooke does things: we are a public interest group with a future-focussed perspective, our mandate is very broad in scope, we are action-oriented, and we are focussed on local implications of the global climate crisis. Hester concluded that a co-management model better fits the way that Transition Sooke conducts our business.

The challenge is how to translate our co-management ideals into Bylaws. Hester sees 4 areas for that need attention: 1) Bylaws concerning responsibilities and roles of the Directors (to be renamed members of the Steering Committee); 2) Bylaws about Members in Transition Sooke; 3) Bylaws concerning the Working Groups (which are not mentioned at all in our current bylaws); and Bylaws concerning our membership meetings.

As well, there are a number of non-controversial and relatively minor changes that need to be made to comply with the rules set out by the 2015 Societies Act.

Moving Forward: The next steps include:

- *examine a first draft of the new bylaws and decide if further work needed to be done on any section; and if so, call-out for more members to get involved in the drafting stage
- *decide on how best to initiate membership discussion on the co-management model and the subsequent changes to the Bylaws

*outline the steps we need to take to get the new Bylaws accepted (by 2/3 vote at an Annual General Meeting.)

As a first step, we asked Hester to work on a first draft of our new Bylaws.

The Board Members stated how we were all “blown away” by the immense amount of work that Hester has done on the Bylaws as well as her thorough understanding of Transition Sooke’s culture. Much appreciation of Hester’s work!

4. **Meeting with MLA John Horgan.** In response to the deadly effects of climate change this summer (heat waves, wildfires, drought, floods, crop failures, fisheries collapse and costly evacuations and infrastructure damage) the BC Climate Emergency Campaign is calling on the BC government to develop and implement a transformative climate emergency plan that is beyond what is contained in Clean BC, the province’s current climate action plan. The Campaign outlines 10 actions that need to be taken immediately.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bRAxIVHkNjZiyqTeMQkc9bHhId35wDwM>

One activity in the campaign is for climate change groups to meet directly with their MLAs to discuss the issues. Lily contacted our MLA, John Horgan, for a meeting with members of Transition Sooke. Horgan’s Constituency Assistant asked for a list of specific questions that we would raise with Horgan. We discussed the list of questions, and agreed on the following:

1. What do you see as the barriers slowing ambitious climate action in our province?
2. We understand the BC government is reviewing Clean BC in the near future. The BC Climate Emergency Campaign is calling for 10 actions that need to be part of a transformative climate emergency plan. (see attached). Can these points be incorporated into CleanBC?
3. In particular, we in Transition Sooke are most concerned about the unchecked growth in our district (resulting in increased levels of GHG emissions), the need to build a vibrant local economy in Sooke, and the need for provincial support to help Sooke reach net zero emission targets, particularly in transportation and buildings.
4. How can we help you to champion climate action in BC?
5. Would you be able to keep in touch with us for updates and continued dialogue on climate action issues?

If a meeting is forthcoming, could you please advise us as to how many people Premier Horgan will be willing to meet with?

5. **Update on SMBI:** We briefly discussed the problems between SMBI and the Chamber of Commerce over the organizing of the Federal All-Candidates Forum. We continue to be

concerned that SMBI has not been fulfilling its responsibilities as a working group of Transition Sooke. Their members do not attend our meetings and we rarely receive updates from them of their activities. Moki will take our concerns to members of SMBI.

6. **Signing Letters on behalf of Transition Sooke.** We agreed to 2 different methods for obtaining permission to sign letters on behalf of Transition Sooke:

- 6.1. Letters concerning issues that are within the current activities of Transition Sooke: the draft letter should be circulated within the Steering Committee for approval.

- 6.2 Letters that are of significant importance or pertain to issues that have not been a part of Transition Sooke's current activities: circulate to the active members of Transition Sooke for approval.

End of Meeting.