

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – AGM – November 28, 2012

Welcome to our second AGM! It has been quite the year! Let me remind you of what we have been up to.

After getting involved in local politics last fall – a first for me! – we seemed to have opened up a positive connection with our local District Council. Several of us have joined forces with other concerned citizens to monitor Council activities on an ongoing basis. We have made representations on several issues and continue to carefully craft our profile in Sooke. Slowly does it while keeping our cool and maintaining a stance of respect and openness..... we have to remember that some say that politics is the art of the possible.

The monthly Café gatherings continued through the winter and into the spring at the Reading Room Café. I will be hosting my first Café next Sunday. Throughout the spring and summer, most of the focus was on the preparations for the September 23rd Sooke Slow Food Cycle and several of us were involved in that.

This fall was quite active starting off with the Sooke Slow Food Cycle which did involve a lot of work. Our involvement was ramped up because STTS had the legal responsibility for the funds received from the District for this event. The turnout was modest but the feeling and spirit of the event was light and celebratory. While I have not been a party to the debriefing of SSFC, my impression is that we will be rethinking this event and perhaps making it more of a reflection of Transition Town themes.

In October, we had our new Transition 2.0 movie and speakers at the Awareness Film night at EMCS courtesy of Jo Phillips and her wonderful monthly series, followed by the talk by Mavis Alvarez at the Baptist Church through Sooke Region Food CHI about "Sustaining Small Farms – The Power of Community". Our Café gatherings resumed on November 4th and will continue monthly until next May, 2013.

The Forum on the Local Economy seemed to work well with lots of the local players present including our Mayor Wendal Milne and Councillor Maja Tait in attendance. I am hoping that some initiatives will emerge from this meeting that we can participate in and contribute to.

In general, our little team, along with help from many good people, and especially our spouses, has done a remarkable job. It has been a source of great joy and pleasure for me to work with such caring, competent and willing people. I thank each one of you for your support and efforts, as I have gone through my own significant health challenge with prostate cancer.

For the future, I feel we need to expand our core team so that we can continue to expand our reach and increase our credibility. With our move to formally increase our membership (to be discussed later this evening), I am hoping that we can encourage more people to get involved and get more working groups happening. An expanded Core Team could also expand our capability to better interact with other related organizations, especially the Sooke Region Food CHI. My sense is that we have not yet reached "critical mass".

We are also still very much at the beginning of finding a vision for this community as a Transition Town that actually fits our existing circumstances and future prospects. As Rob Hopkins – blessed be he! – says, each place has to find its own mix of relevant initiatives that fit what is possible and necessary in each locality. AND we are in it for the long haul!

As Thomas Kings says in the Dead Dog Café Comedy Hour,
Stay calm. Be brave. Wait for the signs.

Michael Tacon Chair

SOOKE TRANSITION TOWN SOCIETY AGM AGENDA

4 p.m. Sunday, 8th December, 2013

WELCOME

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT

NOMINATIONS for CORE TEAM (Board)

Jeff Bateman for President

Yvonne Court for Secretary-Treasurer

Andrew Moore – Director

Stephen Hindrichs – Director

Lee Hindrichs – Director

Sofie Hagens – Director

Darren Alexander – Director

Blake Barton – Director at large

Michael Tacon – Director at large

ANY OTHER NOMINATIONS?

ELECTION OF CORE TEAM MEMBERS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT