

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOOKE
TRANSITION TOWN SOCIETY held on December 8th, 2013 at the
Reading Room Cafe in Sooke.**

Present: The current Core Team (10) and 10 members.

Society president Michael Tacon welcomed everyone and started the proceedings with his report of the activities of the Society in 2013 (see Appendix A). He also offered some musings about the future for Transition Sooke including some comments about the importance of inner transition in contrast to the social and practical aspects of promoting sustainability and resilience in our community.

Yvonne Court, the Society treasurer, gave a brief financial report (Appendix B). The current balance in the Society account is \$3,123.63 which means that we are in the best financial shape since the founding of Transition Sooke. This is thanks to the hard work of the Core Team and especially the merging of funds passed on to STTS from the Sooke Slow Food Cycle and Juan de Fuca Cycling Coalition working groups.

All current members of the Core Team, with the exception of Margaret Critchlow who has resigned from the team, stood for nomination. This slate of candidates were voted in unanimously as the new Core Team (Board) for 2014 on a motion by Michael Tacon, seconded by Bev England. They are Jeff Bateman (President), Yvonne Court (Treasurer), Andrew Moore, Stephen Hindrichs, Lee Hindrichs, Sofie Hagens, Blake Barton, Darren Alexander and Michael Tacon (Past President).

Under New Business various issues and ideas were put forward which included: Exploring how to promote sustainable growth that fits specifically for Sooke; establishing a team and buddy system to monitor Sooke District Council; support more enthusiastic adherence to Sooke's Official Community Plan; appointing a person to act as a membership liaison and coordinator; explore a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce; promote alternative energy opportunities as solar and other technologies are made available in the Capital Region District; follow up on the issues raised by the TRASHED movie recently shown at Awareness Film Night; look at the possibility of offering some group experiences and programs on "Inner Transition" i.e. resources to help us prepare for the emotional and psychological challenges of dealing with environmental and societal change.

A presentation was made to Sofie Hagens for her service and commitment to Transition Sooke - especially for the newsletter, which Jeff Bateman will be taking over while she is away in the New Year for several months. Another presentation was made to Margaret Critchlow, a founding member of Transition

Sooke, in acknowledgement for her extensive contributions to the success of our venture and to her deep commitment to the values of Transition Town. Margaret will be carrying the torch through her vital role in the Harbourside Senior Cohousing project and we wish her well in that endeavour.

Meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Appendix A

TRANSITION SOOKE AGM – December 8th, 2013 **President's Report** **Michael Tacon**

As I see it, 2013 was a somewhat quieter year for our Sooke Transition Town group as we maintained something of a holding pattern. We continued to show up at various events and worked cooperatively with various organizations such as Jo Phillips' Video Awareness Evenings, Sooke Region Food CHI, Streetbank, the Bike Park folks and the Juan de Fuca Cycling Coalition.

The monthly café gatherings at the Reading Room Café continued except for a break over the summer and the odd missed month. Our thanks to Kathe Drover for making her space available to us. This form of outreach seems worthwhile and we will likely continue to offer these opportunities to meet new people and get the word out.

Some of the highlights:

- * Transition Town presence and displays at Seedy Saturday, Volunteer Fair, Canada Day at the Flats, and Sooke Farmers Market.
- * Many of us showed up at the GMO protest at the Prestige Hotel in April 13 and we were delighted when the municipal representatives voted to ban GMO on Vancouver Island.
- * A delegation of us went to the Transition Saltspring Eco-Tour. We were inspired with just how much that community has embraced the Transition Town ideas.
- * Partnering with Sooke Region Food CHI we organized the talk by Dr. Thierry Vrain on the problems with GMO's that we need to know about. This event at Sooke Harbour House was well attended.
- * We have continued to monitor the Sooke Council meetings when matters like the Harbourside Cohousing, the new Bike Skills Park, and local adherence to the OCP, etc.
- * Stephen offered a video night at the Little Vienna Cafe

In April, we did set up an Open Space Community meeting with a view to encouraging some of our members to attend and get involved. The turnout was minimal which suggests to me that we need to find a way to better connect with our membership. To this end, I would like to recommend that we invite someone to step forward to take on the role of membership liaison and coordinator.

Your Core Team – Margaret, Andrew, Jeff, Stephen, Lee, Yvonne, Sophie, Eric and I - has met on a regular basis. We have worked well together and I now thank each one of you for your support and commitment to our Transition venture. We have had two new people join our team: Blake Barton and Darren Alexander – take a bow – and we are delighted to have them aboard. I hope they will continue to serve on the Core Team as we go forward into 2014.

One of the features of how the Core Team operates is the tendency to generate all kinds of ideas and possibilities. This is how the creative impulse gets played out in our deliberations and it is an important part of our dialogue with each other. However the reality is that we can only do so much and we have had to learn to let go of pet projects when they either don't work or run out of steam. This fall we began to feel as a group that we needed to review our mission and rethink what we actually want to do next. A kind of brainstorm/think tank meeting took place in October and the resulting ideas were presented at our last Core Team meeting on November 19th. Our next move will be to consult with one or two of our Sooke councillors to get their feedback in our ideas from a more political perspective. This is an ongoing process that will be tackled by the incoming Core Team. Stay tuned. Stay on line.

During 2013, two groups merged with and provided resources to our Society: the Sooke Slow Food Cycle "working group" and the Juan de Fuca Cycling Coalition. We are grateful for their participation and collaboration with our overall collective mandate. As you will see, when Yvonne presents her financial report, we are in the best financial shape since we began this Transition journey, thanks in part to this pooling of resources I just mentioned. Here I would like to acknowledge Carolyn Bateman for her financial contribution to our work through her production and sale of woollen dryer balls. Thank you, Carolyn!

Our outreach efforts resulted in the decision to change our name – our handle if you will – to Transition Sooke to replace our more cumbersome title. It is like giving a snappy name to our brand.

Then Sofie offered to start a monthly newsletter which has proven to be a wealth of information about transition-related issues and our activities. Sofie, Stephen and others of our group got involved with making Streetbank a locally available resource for neighbourly communication and exchange of resources. I believe it

has great potential to further our connectedness in this community. Sofie will be away for a while and we wish her and Neil a wonderful trip abroad.

By way of closing, I want to mention that I am stepping down as the President of the Sooke Transition Town Society but I will be available to stay on the Core Team as a back seat driver.

As my last task as your Core Team chair, I would like us to honour:

SOFIE for her hard work on our behalf

MARGARET for her amazing contribution as a co-founder / Harbourside