

**Minutes - Transition Sooke General Meeting – April 1, 2020, 7 pm**  
**(Virtual meeting via Zoom)**

**Attendees – approx 18**

1. Opening
  - a) Welcome – acknowledgement of indigenous traditional territories
  - b) President's remarks - Michael Tacon made some remarks about the progress Transition Sooke has made over the past years, highlighting events held that have moved discussion forward on many matters. He referenced the recent climate emergency initiatives and the current resolve to follow and contribute to the development of Sooke's Official Community Plan (OCP).
  - c) Agenda review
  - d) Minutes of last meeting (March 4, 2020) Moved Moki, Second Susan Clarke that the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Carried
2. Treasurer's Report – Moved David Mallett, second Susan Clarke Treasurer's Report be approved. Carried. It was suggested that a credit card for Transition Sooke may be useful. David is exploring this possibility with Coast Capital Savings. This led to a conversation about the possibility of moving Transition Sooke accounts to Vancity due to Coast Capital's investment in fossil fuels. This move will be further explored pending relaxations of COVID restrictions
3. Board meeting (March 11, 2020) - Alan noted that the board met in person to discuss two requests for support. Both were approved.
  - a) Human-Nature Counselling Society (Katy Rose) - Moki wrote letter on behalf of TS to support Katy Rose's grant application
  - b) Diego's mural project. - David M wrote letter on behalf of TS to support Diego's grant application
4. Ad hoc committee reports
  - a) Membership (see proposal at end of minutes):
    - (1) Hester explained that the membership committee had examined existing documents, and noted the committee's job was to "have a description of how members are admitted into the society, a statement of any rights and responsibilities if we have any, a description of the kinds of members if there is more than one kind of member, and how this works. We need to check our bylaws regulations about what constitutes members in "good standing," and the expulsion of members, and if we think the concept is relevant to us; similarly, we need to check our bylaws on members' role in meetings, voting thresholds and rules about voting. She reported that thus far, the committee has focused on how Transition Sooke might define "member," and offered a proposal for discussion. This proposal lays out the classes of members, attainment of voting rights, statement of members' shared values and intentions, and renewal of membership. Roles and Responsibilities will be explored in a later meeting. Hester ended with the assurance

that all committee members are committed to keeping Transition Sooke's open character and stated that some items needed the direction of the membership: when members attain voting rights, and what to call these members.

- (2) Consensus of the meeting was that members with voting rights be called "active" members.
- (3) The majority of the meeting participants favoured the idea that voting rights in Transition Sooke be awarded to people who sign the active member sheet and who have attended at least one meeting previously. They achieve voting status on their second meeting.
- (4) The Committee's proposal is attached at the end of these notes, with corrections reflecting the general meeting's decisions.

- b) Decision making – no report; waiting for membership committee
- c) Financial processes – no report

5. Earth Day 2020 Planning – Ann

- a) Moved Moki, second David, to withdraw the application to District of Sooke for Earth Day events. Carried.

6. Climate Emergency Action Teams - Jo and Susan C

- a) Jo Phillips led a go-round of participants, to share how the COVID restrictions were affecting them
- b) Green Energy - Presentation to council postponed – Cheryl; Lily reported on Green Energy Team's activities.
- c) Divestment: Susan Clarke reported that there is a Divestment letter ready to go out to financial institutions and correct emails for pensions funds, etc. are being put together
- d) Food Security / Local Agriculture – Stephen noted that this committee has been deciding where it is going. Directions include:
  - (1) Opening up communication between groups and focusing on communication with farmers about marketing, etc.
  - (2) Policy directions for Sooke Council
  - (3) Backyard Gardens Initiative, a program involving many Sooke groups (Food Chi, Sooke Garden Club, etc.) aimed at helping households create their own gardens by providing materials such as seed, soil. The idea is modelled on the WW2 era "Victory Gardens. The group will apply for a grant from the federal government for \$2,500— or \$160 per garden. He asked if Transition Sooke would be interested in participating, by giving funds or support. This project captured people's imaginations and there was much discussion, with different members offering supplies that could be useful. Eventually the following motion was made.

Moved Moki, second (?), that Transition Sooke give in principle support, pending receipt of detailed project budget, to the Backyard Gardens Initiative in the form of reimbursement of supported receipts up to \$500. Carried

- e) Transportation - The District of Sooke is applying for a grant to support research in the Sooke area. The application deadline for this grant was moved to mid-July. The Sooke

Region Communities Health Network plans to use the grant money to conduct a major survey for the Sooke area and the TS Transportation Committee has agreed to join in that survey. Heather said she would help the SRCHN update its community contact list. Heather had not begun to help because the Volunteer Bureau is extremely busy due to the pandemic requirement for social distancing. The requirement for social distancing has also put on hold the Transportation Team's attempt to promote carpooling and more use of public transportation.

- f) Forest and Ocean - Presentation by Andy McKinnon has been postponed to the fall.
- 7. District of Sooke Climate Action Committee – Susan C, Diane, Christina, Andrew – It was reported that the Climate Action Committee is working on a document for Council that will become part of the next Sooke Strategic Plan
- 8. Zero Waste Sooke – Bernie, Paula – The April Repair Café is cancelled.
- 9. Pesticide Education Group – Presentation postponed – Alan
- 10. Wild Wise Sooke – No report, but David Mallett noted that he is personally saddened by the killing of the Discovery Island wolf
- 11. Announcements
  - a) Lynn has some new hens at point of lay, ready for sale if people are interested.
- 12. Other business - none

**Next meeting – May 6, 2020**

### **Proposal on Defining Membership**

#### **Classes of members**

- Transition Sooke has two classes of members, to reflect the broad email list with over 400 subscribers and the much smaller group that comes to meetings to vote and discuss issues.
  - Email subscribers will be known as 'associate members' while come-to-meeting members will be known as 'active members'.
  - Only active members will be voting members.
  - It is from the Active Member list, not the email list, that membership numbers for official purposes are collected, and from which issues such as quorum can be calculated.
- We would need to make sure that we have the name as well as the contact email for both associate members and active members, as well as the date that they joined. This is to fulfil the requirement to keep a registry of members.

### **Process of becoming a member**

- Active members attain voting rights in Transition Sooke when they sign the active member sheet at their second meeting.

### **Statement of members' shared values and intentions**

We propose that we have a statement of what Transition Sooke is about - the shared values and intentions that we expect our members share, and this be printed on the top of the sign-up sheet. We would draw the attention to newcomers to this statement before they sign up.

Alternately, we could have a membership form (perhaps on the same clipboard as our regular meeting sign-up sheet) which we could direct newcomers to; this form would have the statement about Transition Sooke.

### **Renewal of membership**

All members would have membership renewed annually at specific date, not on the anniversary of the date they joined.

- Annually we would send an email to everyone on the active members list asking if they wish to remain on the active members' list, move to the associate members' list, or withdraw from membership. If they wish to remain on the list they need to respond; if they don't respond they would be moved to the broader email list of associate members.
- To reject membership an associate member has only to unsubscribe from the list, and an active member can ask to be removed or can simply not respond to the annual refreshing of the list.

### **Rights and responsibilities**

We will discuss rights and responsibilities at a subsequent meeting; thus far we propose that we continue without member dues, and that members have an implied responsibility of commitment to the value statement upon signing in as a member.